



Summary

FEATURE ARTICLE - CHANGES TO LABOUR FORCE SURVEY SEASONAL ADJUSTMENT PROCESSES

FEATURE ARTICLE - EMPLOYMENT IN INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY

FEATURE ARTICLE - LABOUR FORCE PARTICIPATION: INTERNATIONAL COMPARISON

FEATURE ARTICLE - POPULATION, PARTICIPATION AND PRODUCTIVITY - CONTRIBUTIONS TO AUSTRALIA'S ECONOMIC GROWTH

Notes

Changes in this issue

Table 5.1 has been modified to include trend Wage Cost Index data at the Australia level and for public and private sectors. Trend Wage Cost Index data has replaced original data in the Labour Market Summary. See 'Labour Statistics News' below for more details.

Data contained in this issue

The statistics shown are the latest available at 12 December 2003. Data sources for the tables in this publication are listed in Appendix 1.

Electronic products

The spreadsheets and data cubes referenced in this publication are available on the ABS web site at <https://www.abs.gov.au>. Follow the links to [Data cubes] and [Time Series Spreadsheets].

Inquiries

For further information about these and related statistics, contact the National Information and Referral Service on 1300 135 070 or Erika Maxim on Canberra 02 6252 7636.

Labour Market Summary

Key measures

Measure		Period	Current figure	% change from	
				Previous quarter(a)	Previous year(b)
Employed - Trend					
Persons	'000	Nov 2003	9,610.5	0.8	1.8
Full-time	'000	Nov 2003	6,896.4	1.1	2.1
Part-time	'000	Nov 2003	2,714.1	0.1	0.9
Part-time employment as a proportion of total employment	%	Nov 2003	28.2	(c)-0.2	(c)-0.2
Unemployed - Trend					
Persons	'000	Nov 2003	572.4	-4.3	-6.5
Looking for full-time work	'000	Nov 2003	425.1	-5.4	-5.8
Looking for part-time work	'000	Nov 2003	147.2	-1.1	-8.5
Unemployment rate - Trend					
Persons	%	Nov 2003	5.6	(c)-0.3	(c)-0.5
Long-term unemployment - Trend					
Persons	'000	Nov 2003	123.4	-5.1	-8.2
As a proportion of total unemployment	%	Nov 2003	21.6	(c)-0.2	(c)-0.4
Labour force underutilisation rate - Original(d)	%	Sep 2002	11.9	na	(c)-0.6
Extended labour force underutilisation rate - Original(d)	%	Sep 2002	13.0	na	(c)-0.6
Proportion of children living in families where no parent is employed (of all children)(e)	%	Jun 2003	17.2	na	(c)-0.7
Labour force participation rate - Trend					
Persons	%	Nov 2003	63.6	(c)0.1	(c)-0.3
Actual hours worked - Original					
Aggregate weekly hours	mill. hours	Nov 2003	334.0	2.0	1.9
Average weekly hours - Persons	hours	Nov 2003	34.7	0.1	-0.1
Average weekly hours - Full-time	hours	Nov 2003	41.9	-0.1	-0.2
Average weekly hours - Part-time	hours	Nov 2003	16.5	0.0	0.0
Part-time workers - Original					
Proportion who preferred to work more hours	%	Nov 2003	27.8	(c)2.4	(c)1.4
Wage cost index - Trend					
Total hourly rates of pay excluding bonuses	index no.	Sep qtr 2003	121.4	0.8	3.6
Average weekly earnings - Trend					
Full-time adult ordinary time earnings	\$	Aug 2003	931.40	1.5	6.1
All employees total earnings	\$	Aug 2003	734.00	1.3	5.4
Compensation of employees - Trend					
Household income account	\$m	Sep atr 2003	93.078	1.4	6.3

Average earnings (National Accounts basis - nominal) per week	\$	Sep qtr 2003	880	1.1	3.7
Industrial disputes - Original					
Working days lost	'000	Sep qtr 2003	166.0	199.1	210.9
Working days lost per 1,000 employees	number	Sep qtr 2003	20.2	200.6	202.5
Job vacancies - Trend					
Australia	'000	Aug 2003	104.3	-1.7	5.1

na not available

(a) Same period previous quarter (monthly data is presented for the middle month of each quarter).

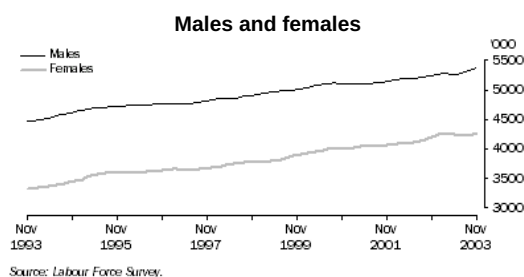
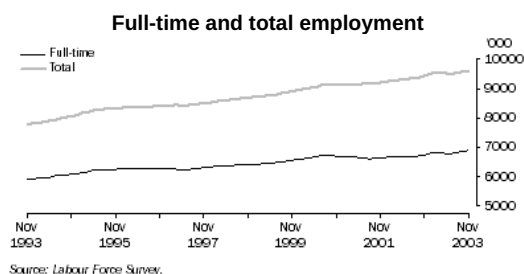
(b) Same period previous year.

(c) Change is in percentage points.

(d) See table 4.1 or the Glossary for further explanation of labour underutilisation rates.

(e) Children are aged under 15 years. See the Explanatory Notes for information on family data.

Employment: trend series

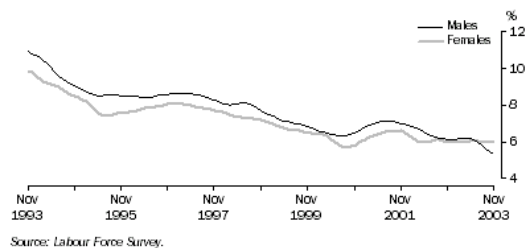


Part-time employment: trend series

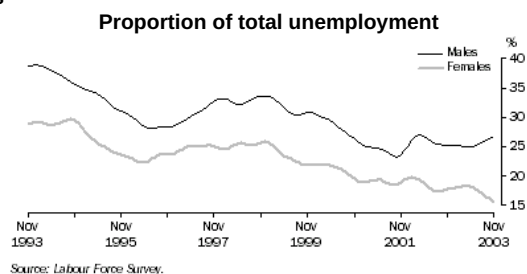


Unemployment rate: trend series

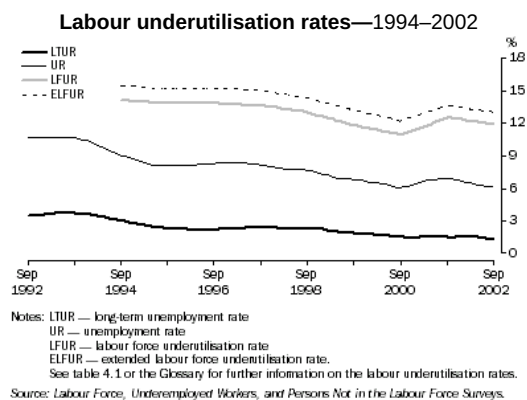
Males and females



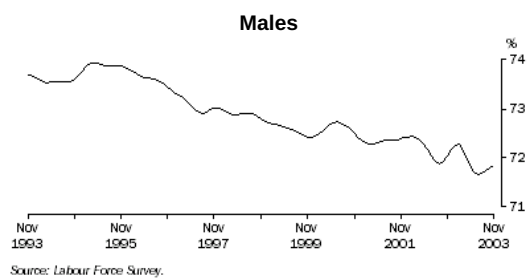
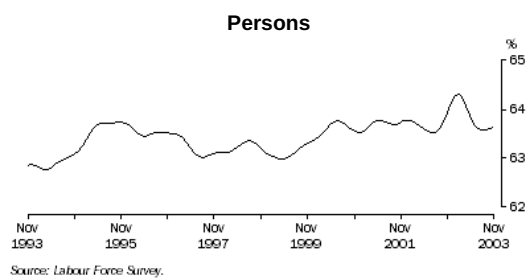
Long-term unemployment: trend series



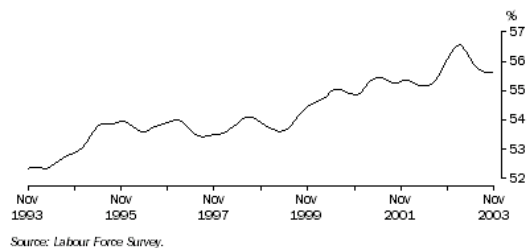
Underutilised labour



Participation rate: trend series

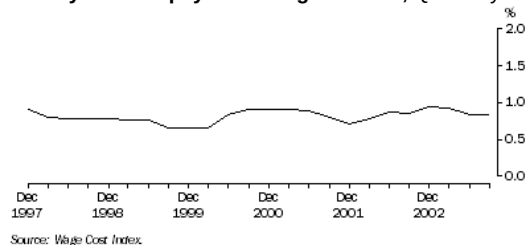


Females



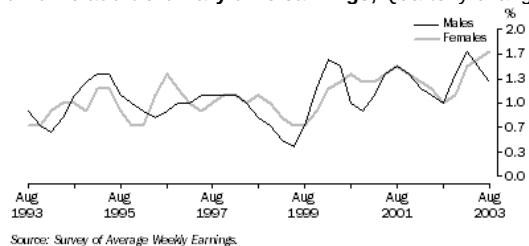
Wage cost index: trend series

Total hourly rates of pay excluding bonuses, Quarterly change

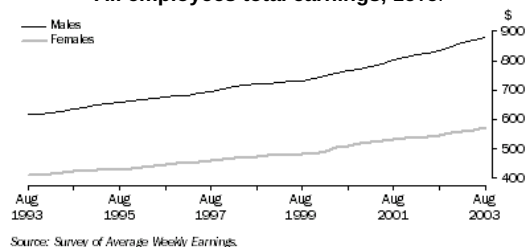


Average weekly earnings: trend series

Full-time adult ordinary time earnings, Quarterly change

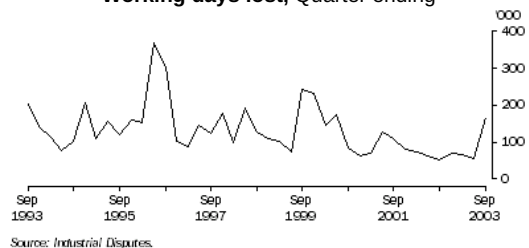


All employees total earnings, Level



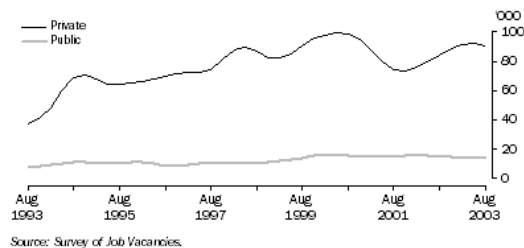
Industrial disputes: original series

Working days lost, Quarter ending



Job vacancies: trend series

Job vacancies, By sector



Labour statistics news

Labour theme page

The ABS Labour Theme Page, available on the ABS web site, provides a guide to the range of ABS statistics on the labour market, as well as links to the latest data released. To find the Theme Page, go to <https://www.abs.gov.au> (Themes - Labour).

Changes to Wage Cost Index publication

The experimental seasonally adjusted wage cost indexes previously published in **Wage Cost Index, Australia** (cat. no. 6345.0) as Appendix 2 are now considered as being of a suitable standard for ABS publication purposes and so the 'experimental' label has been removed. Trend series are also available. From the September quarter 2003 issue of 6345.0, the format of the publication and associated spreadsheets has changed to include the trend and seasonally adjusted indexes for total hourly rates of pay excluding bonuses for each of the private and public sectors and for all sectors.

As a result of these changes, table 5.1 of **Australian Labour Market Statistics** (cat. no. 6105.0) has been revised to include trend data alongside the original data. Revisions have also been made to the Labour Market Summary table and graphs, which now contain only trend Wage Cost Index data.

Format changes to initial release LFS products

The format of the publication **Labour Force, Australia** (cat. no. 6202.0), and other products associated with the initial release of monthly data from the LFS, will be changing from the November 2003 issue. These changes, including the revised layout of the publication, were detailed in the second issue of **Information Paper: Changes to Labour Force Survey Products** (cat. no. 6297.0), released on 23 October 2003.

LFS Standard Errors

Information Paper: Labour Force Survey Standard Errors (cat. no. 6298.0) was released on 15 December 2003. Accompanying the release of this paper was a spreadsheet that automates the process of calculating standard errors for most estimates produced from the Labour Force Survey. For more information see the Labour Theme Page at <https://www.abs.gov.au> (Themes - Labour - LFS Standard Errors).

Wage and salary earners electronic release

The June quarter 2003 issue of **Wage and Salary Earners, Public Sector, Australia** (cat. no. 6248.0) was the final release in the form of a printed publication. The publication will be replaced with a quarterly electronic publication under catalogue number 6248.0.55.001, containing a small number of summary tables, available free from the ABS web site <https://www.abs.gov.au>. More detailed tables are available in electronic format. The first issue of the new electronic publication (with reference period September quarter 2003) will be released on 15 January 2004.

Industrial disputes electronic release

The monthly publication **Industrial Disputes, Australia** (cat. no. 6321.0) will be replaced with a quarterly electronic publication under catalogue number 6321.0.55.001, commencing with the release of statistics for March quarter 2004. The electronic publication will contain a small number of tables presenting quarterly data and will be available free from the ABS web site at <https://www.abs.gov.au>. The December 2003 issue, which is scheduled for release on 18 March 2004, will be the final release in the form of a printed publication.

Review of ABS Working Arrangements Statistics

The ABS is conducting a review of working arrangements statistics. As part of the review, the ABS is consulting with users to find out more about their data needs. A discussion paper has been prepared to provide users with information about the purpose and scope of the review and some of the data issues that have been identified. The findings from the review will feed into the planning process for the household survey program and into the content of the relevant surveys.

Interested users of ABS working arrangements statistics are invited to read the discussion paper and provide their feedback by completing the questionnaire and returning it by 6 February 2004. The questionnaire and discussion paper are available at the Labour Theme page at <https://www.abs.gov.au>

Understanding labour statistics course

In 2004, a one-day course on **Understanding Labour Statistics** will be conducted in each capital city for users of labour statistics. This one-day course will provide an overview of the range of concepts and issues associated with ABS labour statistics. It will explore the data produced by both household and employer based collections, and highlight the range of products available to access labour-related data. For more information about the course, see the Labour Theme Page, or contact Debbie Hansard on Canberra 02 6252 5895, or via email d.hansard@abs.gov.au.

Education and Work

Education and Work, Australia (cat. no. 6227.0) was released on 5 December 2003. See the article in this issue for more details.

Ageing in Australia

The National Ageing Statistics Unit released the publication **Census of Population and Housing: Ageing in Australia, 2001** (cat. no. 2048.0) on 13 October 2003. This publication analyses the characteristics of the older population (persons aged 65 years and older) drawing on 2001 census data. Information is organised into seven chapters, by major areas of social concern: population; cultural diversity; living arrangements; work and economic environment; transport; education; and technology.

General Social Survey

Results from the 2002 General Social Survey were released on 18 December 2003 in the publication **General Social Survey: Summary Results, Australia** (cat. no. 4159.0). In addition, a data reference package, a user guide and state and territory data (cat. no. 4159.0.55.001 etc.) are due for release.

This survey brings together a wide range of information for various population groups and areas of social concern. Topics include: health; housing; education; work; income; financial stress; broad assets and liabilities; transport, family and community; and crime and justice.

Regional Wage and Salary Earner Statistics

The first issue of **Regional Wage and Salary Earner Statistics, Australia - Electronic Publication** (cat. no. 5673.0.55.001) was released on 19 December 2003. This electronic release contains estimates of the total number of wage and salary earners and their characteristics for various levels of the Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC), including Statistical Local Areas (SLAs) and Local Government Areas (LGAs), in each state and territory of Australia for the year 2000-01.

The data have been compiled from aggregated data supplied from the Australian Taxation Office's Individual Income Tax Return Database, and are part of an ABS initiative to increase the range of regional statistics available, particularly through the use of administrative information held by other government agencies.

Health and Community Services Labour Force

Health and Community Services Labour Force, 2001, published jointly by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) (cat. no. HWL 27) and the ABS (cat. no. 8936.0) on 30 September 2003, is the second in an AIHW series that presents health and community services workforce data from the Census. It includes information on the number, distribution and characteristics of employed persons in 105 occupations identified as providing health and community services in 2001, and discusses growth and other changes in this workforce since 1996.

Recent and upcoming statistical releases

Release date/title of publication	Reference period	Catalogue number
January 2004		
Australian Labour Market Statistics	January 2004	6105.0
Australian Census Analytic Program: Factors Underlying Indigenous Labour Force Status, 1981-2001	2001	2052.0
Industrial Disputes, Australia	October 2003	6321.0
Job Vacancies, Australia	November 2003	6354.0
Labour Force, Australia	December 2003	6202.0
Wage and Salary Earners, Public Sector, Australia - electronic release	September quarter 2003	6248.0.55.001
February 2004		
Average Weekly Earnings, Australia	November 2003	6302.0
Employee Earnings, Benefits and Trade Union Membership, Australia	August 2003	6310.0
Industrial Disputes, Australia	November 2003	6321.0
Job Search Experience, Australia	July 2003	6222.0
Labour Force, Australia	January 2004	6202.0
Wage Cost Index, Australia	December quarter 2003	6345.0
March 2004		
Industrial Disputes, Australia	December 2003	6321.0
Labour Force, Australia	February 2004	6202.0
Persons Not in the Labour Force, Australia	September 2003	6220.0
Underemployed Workers, Australia	September 2003	6265.0

April 2004	Wage and Salary Earners, Public Sector, Australia	December quarter 2003	6248.0.55.001
	Australian Labour Market Statistics	April 2004	6105.0
	Indigenous Social Survey, Australia	2002	4714.0
	Job Vacancies, Australia	February 2004	6354.0
	Labour Force, Australia	March 2004	6202.0
	Labour Statistics in Brief, Australia	2004	6104.0
	Workplace Functions in Regional Labour Markets, Queensland	1976 to 2001	6601.3

List of Tables

List of Tables

The tables listed below are included in the publication **Australian Labour Market Statistics** (cat. no. 6105.0). Electronic sources of the data in these tables can be found in Appendix 1 of the publication or on the web site by clicking on **Appendix 1**.

The labour force

- 1.1 Labour force status: trend series
- 1.2 Age by social marital status
- 1.3 States and territories, and capital cities
- 1.4 Educational attendance (aged 15-24)
- 1.5 Country of birth by year of arrival in Australia
- 1.6 Relationship in household
- 1.7 All families: family type by labour force status
- 1.8 International comparisons

Employed persons

- 2.1 Industry: trend series
- 2.2 Industry division and subdivision
- 2.3 Occupation major groups and sub-major groups
- 2.4 Industry and occupation by full-time/part-time status
- 2.5 Industry and occupation by status in employment
- 2.6 Actual hours worked: industry and occupation
- 2.7 Actual hours worked
- 2.8 Actual and usual hours worked in all jobs
- 2.9 Full-time workers who worked less than 35 hours
- 2.10 Future employment expectations by job tenure
- 2.11 Public sector employees

Unemployed persons

- 3.1 Duration of unemployment by age
- 3.2 Long-term unemployed persons: trend series
- 3.3 Reason for unemployment by industry and occupation of last job

Underutilised labour

- 4.1 Labour underutilisation: Australia population counts and rates
- 4.2 Labour underutilisation: age and state rates
- 4.3 Part-time workers: whether preferred to work more hours
- 4.4 Persons not in the labour force: whether looking for work

Earnings

- 5.1 Wage cost index
- 5.2 Average weekly earnings: trend series
- 5.3 Compensation of employees and related measures: trend series

Industrial Relations

- 6.1 Industrial disputes: working days lost
- 6.2 Industrial disputes: working days lost per 1,000 employees

Job vacancies

- 7.1 Job vacancies

About this Release

ABOUT THIS RELEASE

Replaces: Labour Force, Australia 6203.0

This publication is the flagship release for all ABS labour statistics. It draws together data from a range of sources, mostly ABS household and business surveys, to provide an overall picture of the labour market. The key purpose of this publication is to raise awareness of the data available, so that users will be able to use it more effectively.

It contains tables for core data items, presenting the most recent data available at a particular date (rather than relating to a particular reference period). It is also able to be used to announce the release of supplementary surveys and infrequent surveys. Note that, in addition to a brief article in this publication, these would also have separate releases, which would not be delayed by the release in this publication.

The publication is also used to release annual data on Indigenous labour force status, and annual supplementary measures of labour underutilisation. It includes a range of feature articles, both analytical and technical, which will assist users in understanding and interpreting the data and will also promote the range of data available from the ABS labour statistics program. It will be used to announce any changes to labour series or releases.

Changes to labour force survey seasonal adjustment processes (Feature Article)

Feature Article - Changes to labour force survey seasonal adjustment processes

INTRODUCTION

The monthly Labour Force Survey (LFS) is one of the most important ABS labour collections, providing timely information on labour market activity within Australia. The statistics of most interest each month are estimates of the number of employed and unemployed, the unemployment rate and the labour force participation rate.

In December 2003, the ABS published **Information Paper: Forthcoming Changes to Labour Force Statistics** (cat. no. 6292.0). This paper described a number of changes being made to labour force statistics in late 2003 and early 2004, including two changes to seasonal adjustment processes:

- implementation of concurrent seasonal adjustment; and
- introduction of an adjustment for survey proximity to holiday periods.

This article describes the changes to LFS seasonal adjustment processes.

These changes will result in better quality seasonally adjusted and trend estimates. The changes will not impact on original estimates, but will cause revisions to previously published seasonally adjusted and trend estimates.

The first LFS estimates incorporating these changes to seasonal adjustment processes will be those published in the December 2003 issue of **Labour Force, Australia** (cat. no. 6202.0), to be released on 15 January 2004.

SEASONAL ADJUSTMENT PROCESSES

Seasonal adjustment is a means of removing the estimated effects of normal seasonal variation from a time series so that the effects of other influences on the series can be recognised more clearly. Seasonal adjustment does not remove the irregular or non-seasonal influences which may be present in any particular month. For a fuller explanation of seasonal adjustment see the article **Using the Unemployment Rate Series to Illustrate the Seasonal Adjustment Process** published in both the April 2000 issue of **Labour Force, Australia** (cat. no. 6203.0), and the May 2000 issue of **Australian Economic Indicators** (cat. no. 1350.0).

Forward Factor Method

In the LFS, seasonal factors are currently estimated using the forward factor method, which reviews the factors annually to take account of each additional year's original data and to examine series for trend breaks, seasonal breaks and outliers. At each annual review, seasonally adjusted estimates for previous periods are revised, and the new forward adjustment factors are projected and then used for the following 12 months.

Concurrent Seasonal Adjustment

Concurrent seasonal adjustment uses original data up to and including the current time period to estimate seasonal factors, and then produce seasonally adjusted and trend series. Concurrent seasonal adjustment is technically superior to the forward factor method of reanalysing seasonal patterns once each year because it uses all available data to fine tune the estimates of the seasonal component each month. With concurrent adjustment, monthly seasonally adjusted series are subject to revisions each month as the estimates of the seasonal factors are improved. It eliminates the need to use projected seasonal factors, and results in improvements in accuracy and consistency of the seasonally adjusted series. In most instances, the only noticeable revisions will be to the estimates for the previous month and for the same month in the preceding year.

In concurrent seasonal adjustment, an annual reanalysis is still conducted, but is limited to examining the series for trend breaks, seasonal breaks and outliers.

Comparing concurrent adjustment with forward factor adjustment

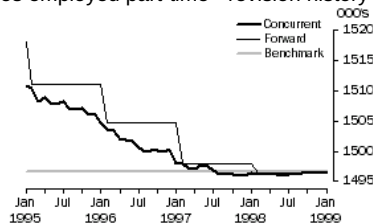
The ABS considers that concurrent adjustment is preferable to forward factor adjustment. Analysis of ABS labour force data has shown that concurrent adjustment generally produces a more accurate initial seasonally adjusted estimate, has less revision over time, and converges more quickly to the final estimate. The use of concurrent seasonal adjustment would have reduced the volatility in some LFS statistics in recent years.

Graphs 1 to 3 show simulated revision histories for a selection of seasonally adjusted series using both the concurrent and forward factor

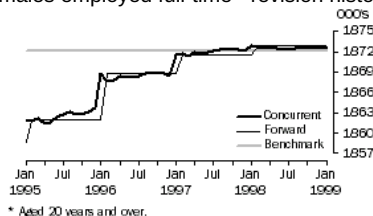
methods. Each graph shows how the estimate for a particular month would have changed over time, from when it was first published to 48 months later. The straight grey line is the 'historical benchmark', which is essentially a stable final estimate (only available at least five years after initial estimation) against which the performance of the two methods can be compared. The thick line is the concurrent estimate and the thin line is the forward factor estimate.

Graphs 1 and 2 are examples of the typical situation where the initial concurrent estimate is closer to the benchmark than the initial forward factor estimate, moving in a series of small revisions that converge on the benchmark earlier than the forward factor estimate. Graph 3 provides an example where concurrent adjustment doesn't provide a better estimate consistently over time, but still shows that the concurrent method converges on the benchmark earlier than the forward factor method. While concurrent estimates will generally be closer to the benchmark than the forward factor estimate, this does not mean that all concurrent estimates will be closer to the benchmarks. It means only that they are closer to the benchmarks on average.

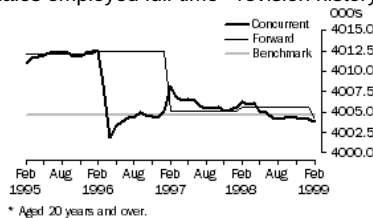
Graph 1, Females employed part-time - revision history for January 1995



Graph 2, Adult* females employed full-time - revision history for January 1995

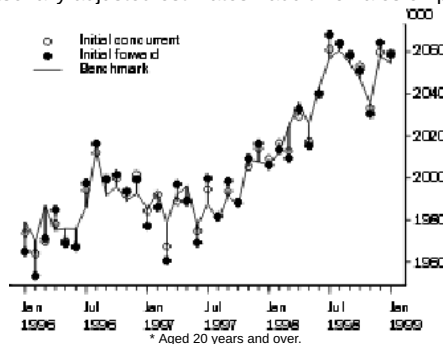


Graph 3, Adult* males employed full-time - revision history for February 1995

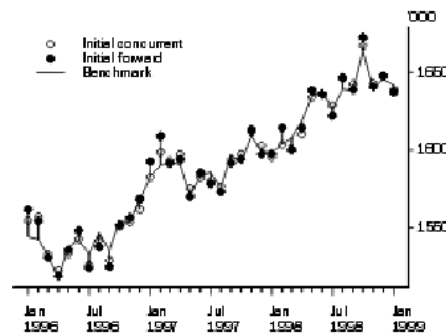


While the examples above demonstrate how the seasonally adjusted estimate for a particular month is revised over time, they do not give a good indication of how the two estimation methods compare over the length of the series. Graphs 4 and 5 display initial seasonally adjusted estimates and the benchmark series for the most recent years that a reliable benchmark can be estimated. This type of analysis is particularly useful for seeing how the two methods would compare for months with large movements when initially released. The thick line is the benchmark series, the circles are the initial concurrent estimates of the seasonally adjusted series, and the solid dots are the initial forward factor estimates of the adjusted series. Graphs 4 and 5 show that, most of the time, the initial concurrent seasonally adjusted estimate is closer to the benchmark series than the initial forward factor estimate.

Graph 4, Seasonally adjusted estimates - adult* females employed full-time



Graph 5, Seasonally adjusted estimates - females employed part-time

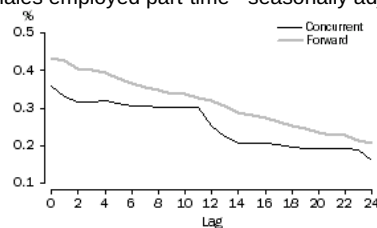


A recent illustration of the improvements that can flow from using concurrent adjustment occurred with the release of labour force figures for January 2003. For employed persons, the initial seasonally adjusted monthly movement (based on forward factors) was +111,000. Had concurrent adjustment been in use at the time, the initial movement estimate would have been +94,000. Although a benchmark estimate for January 2003 will not be available for several years, it is clear from comparisons with recent trend data that the concurrent adjusted movement of +94,000 is likely to be closer to the benchmark than the figure of +111,000 that was released at the time.

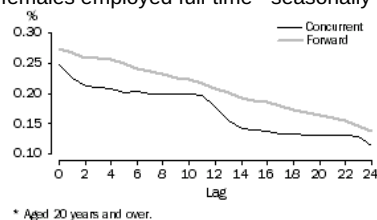
Whereas graphs 1, 2 and 3 show the seasonally adjusted estimates for a particular point in time at various 'lags', graphs 6 and 7 show the average (over the period of study) of the absolute percentage revisions of lagged seasonally adjusted estimates for both the concurrent and forward factor methods. The average of the absolute percent revisions of lagged estimates is a global measure of the revision size and convergence speed of the seasonally adjusted estimates. It is calculated using all estimates at a specific lag. That is, the lag zero (0) average revision uses all initial estimates over the period under study; the lag 1 average revision uses the second estimate available for all months of the period under study; and so on. For example, the lag zero January 1995 estimate is the initial estimate using data up to January 1995; the lag 1 estimate is the second estimate of January 1995 using data up to February 1995.

Graphs 6 and 7 show that, on average, the concurrent seasonally adjusted estimates have less revision at each lag than the forward factor estimates, and converge to the benchmark more quickly. These patterns are typical of all the national component series of employment and unemployment.

Graph 6, Females employed part-time - seasonally adjusted revisions



Graph 7, Adult* females employed full-time - seasonally adjusted revisions



* Aged 20 years and over.

Implications of introducing concurrent seasonal adjustment

In the LFS, original data (i.e. data that is not seasonally adjusted) is generally only revised at the five yearly re-benchmarking to population estimates based on the latest census, and occasionally following definitional changes. As a result, revisions to seasonally adjusted data in the past generally occurred only once a year when the annual reanalysis of seasonal factors was conducted.

Under concurrent seasonal adjustment, all seasonal factors will be subject to revision every month - consequently, all seasonally adjusted and trend estimates may also be revised every month. However, significant revisions will generally only occur for the previous one or two months, as well as one year prior to the current month.

The monthly revisions will require users of LFS seasonally adjusted and trend series to access more data each month in order to ensure that they possess the latest data for all time periods. Previously, for all releases other than February, users needed only access the latest month's seasonally adjusted estimates, and the last seven months' trend estimates (February was the month when revisions to seasonally adjusted labour force series resulting from the annual seasonal reanalysis were released). The move to monthly revisions (under concurrent seasonal adjustment) should not adversely affect the use of seasonally adjusted data, as users generally access an entire time series at once rather than adding the current month's data only. Recent changes to LFS products have facilitated this use of complete time series.

Survey proximity to holiday periods

Both forward factor and concurrent seasonal adjustment methods are able to remove the effect of events which occur at the same time in the survey each year. However, there are some events, like holidays, which are not always at the same time in the survey cycle or which are not at the same time across Australia.

The effects of these types of events on LFS estimates cannot in all cases be removed, because the pattern of their effects cannot be determined. However, two events which have been identified, and can be adjusted for in estimates, are the January interview start date and the timing of Easter.

Interviews for the LFS generally start on the Monday which falls between the 6th and the 12th of each month, except in January, where interviews start on the Monday which falls between the 8th and the 14th, to deal with operational difficulties involved with collecting and processing the LFS around the Christmas and New Year holiday period. If interviews start at the beginning of this bracket, as they did in 2001, then the survey reference period (i.e. the calendar week prior to interview) would include New Year's Day. Alternatively, if interviews start at the end of this bracket, as they did in 2002, then the reference period will start on 7 January.

The timing of Easter varies from late March to late April. As a result, Easter may fall between the March and April interview periods, during the April interview period, or after the April interview period.

Analysis has shown that the proximity of LFS interviewing to holidays can have an effect on both people's availability for the interview and on their labour market involvement.

A specific adjustment for this effect in respect of the January interview start date and the timing of Easter will be introduced to coincide with the introduction of concurrent seasonal adjustment. For more information on the effect of the survey proximity to holiday periods on labour force estimates, please refer to the feature article **Volatility of Labour Force Estimates** in the December 2002 issue of **Labour Force, Australia** (cat. no. 6203.0).

Introduction of seasonal adjustment process changes

The first estimates to incorporate concurrent adjustment and the holiday effect changes to the seasonal adjustment process will be those published in the December 2003 issue of **Labour Force, Australia** (cat. no. 6202.0), to be released on 15 January 2004. The introduction of these two changes will mean that some estimates in seasonally adjusted and trend series may be revised as far back as February 1978.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Information Paper: Forthcoming Changes to Labour Force Statistics (cat. no. 6292.0), released on 16 December 2003, provides further details of changes being introduced to the LFS.

For further information about the technical details of concurrent seasonal adjustment, contact Craig McLaren on Canberra 02 6252 6540, or via email craig.mclaren@abs.gov.au.

Labour force participation: international comparison (Feature Article)

Feature Article - Labour force participation: international comparison

Introduction

Most people in Australia participate in the labour force at some stage in their lives, with paid employment of importance financially and personally. Labour force participation changes as people join or leave the labour force, and may be affected by other decisions such as combining work with study or family responsibilities.

There is considerable interest in labour force participation from both a social and economic perspective. One particular issue is the ageing Australian population and the implications this may have for the size of the labour force. In the July 2003 issue of **Australian Labour Market Statistics** (cat. no. 6105.0), the article **Population, Participation and Productivity: contributions to Australia's economic growth** analysed the contribution of population demographics, labour force participation and productivity to the generation of economic growth (as measured by GDP).

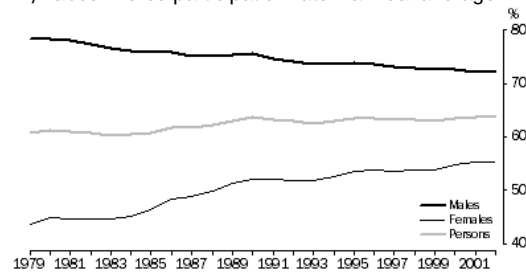
The labour force participation rate is defined as the labour force (persons employed or unemployed) expressed as a percentage of the population.

Changes in Australia

Over the last two decades, Australia's labour force participation rate has increased slowly, rising from 60.8% in 1979 to 63.7% in 2002. The main factor behind the long-term rise in the labour force participation rate has been an increase in female participation, which has risen from 43.6% in 1979 to 55.5% in 2002. In contrast, male participation fell from 78.4% to 72.2% over the same period. Graph 1 shows male and

female participation rates from 1979 to 2002.

Graph 1, Labour Force participation rate—annual average: Australia



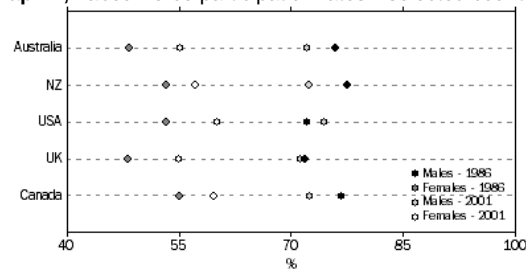
Sources: Labour Force Survey, Australia

International comparison

To determine how trends in labour force participation in Australia compare with those elsewhere, a comparison was made with other countries that are similar to Australia in many ways (that is, with developed economies, and with similar cultures). The countries selected for this study were New Zealand, United Kingdom, United States of America and Canada. Data collated by the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) were used.

In all these countries, as well as Australia, the participation rate for women increased over the period of the study (1986 to 2001), while the participation rate for men decreased (except for USA, where it increased). However, there were differences in the magnitude of the changes, and in the levels of participation, as shown in graph 2.

Graph 2, Labour force participation rates—selected countries



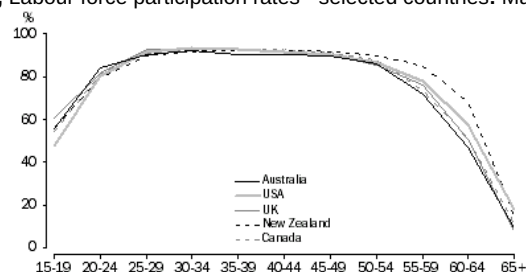
Sources: ILO LABORSTA database

The USA had the highest participation rate overall in 2001 at 66.9%, with the participation rate for women considerably higher than most of the other countries shown, except for Canada. The participation rate of the UK was below that of the other countries. In part, this could reflect the older population in the UK - 19% of the population was aged 65 or over, compared to between 15 and 16% in the other countries; while 14% of the UK population was aged between 15 and 24, compared to between 16% and 19% for the other countries (data are for 2002).

Comparison by age

Comparison of the countries by age shows that the patterns of participation were quite similar between countries for males across all age groups, while there were some differences through the life cycle for females. Graph 3 below shows participation rates for males in 2002, and graph 4 shows participation rates for females in 2002.

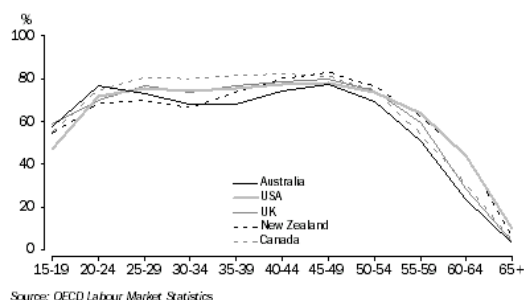
Graph 3, Labour force participation rates - selected countries: Males - 2002



Source: OECD Labour Market Statistics

Participation in the labour force is relatively high for men between age groups 20-24 and 50-54 in all countries. A slightly higher proportion of teenage males participate in the labour force in the UK than in other countries, while the proportion of men aged 50 and over participating in the labour force is highest in New Zealand.

Graph 4, Labour force participation rates - selected countries: Females - 2002



For women in Australia, there is a notable decrease in labour force participation in age groups 25-29 to 35-39. This is not apparent to the same extent in the USA, UK or Canada. In New Zealand, the participation rate for women is relatively low for the age groups up to 30-34; it then rises, and is relatively high for the age groups 45-49 and older.

In USA and Canada, the higher participation rates for women of child bearing ages lead to a higher labour force participation rate for women overall. However, in the UK, despite relatively high participation rates for women of child-bearing ages, the female participation rate is still lower overall than other countries, reflecting the older population in the UK.

The differences in participation rates between countries for women in child-bearing ages do not just reflect differences in the proportion of women who return to work soon after having children, but also differences in fertility rates, in availability of paid maternity leave, and in the treatment of maternity leave in labour force surveys. Generally, a woman on paid maternity leave would be treated in labour force surveys as being attached to a job, and hence employed, while a woman on unpaid maternity leave would be treated as not being attached to a job, and so not in the labour force. In some countries, women may be entitled to longer periods of paid maternity leave than in Australia, and so would be considered to be employed for a longer period, leading to higher participation rates in child-bearing years.

Participation in part-time employment

The nature of participation in the labour market, as assessed through the proportion of employees working part-time, differs considerably among the selected countries. The definition of 'part-time' varies between countries, but an OECD study has attempted to provide results on a comparable basis (based on a definition of part-time being less than 30 hours worked per week, while the standard definition used in Australia is based on a 35-hour cutoff). This analysis showed that Australia had a relatively high proportion of employees working part-time (27% in 2002), with the next highest rate being 23% in UK and New Zealand. The proportion of part-time employment had increased in all countries shown since 1986.

It was noted above that the overall rate of participation in the labour force is higher in the USA than the other four countries. The OECD data show that the nature of participation is also very different, with the proportion of employees working part-time in the USA in 2002 (13%) less than half that in Australia (27%). The difference is greatest for women, with only 19% of female employees working part-time in the USA, compared to 40% in Australia and 39% in the UK.

PART-TIME EMPLOYEES TO TOTAL EMPLOYEES RATIO, Selected countries - 2002

	Males		Females		Persons	
	1986 %	2002 %	1986 %	2002 %	1986 %	2002 %
Australia	9.7	15.9	35.4	40.3	20.2	27.1
USA	4.5	8.3	11.8	18.8	7.9	13.4
UK	4.3	8.2	41.3	39.2	20.8	22.9
New Zealand	5.7	11.8	31.0	35.2	16.8	23.2
Canada	8.5	10.4	26.3	26.4	16.5	18.2

OECD Labour Market Statistics; note that the OECD defines part-time work as "usual weekly working hours of 30 or less".

Further Information

For further information relating to data from the Labour Force Survey, please contact Peter Bradbury on Canberra 02 6252 6565 or email peter.bradbury@abs.gov.au. For further information relating to the analysis in this article, please contact Mark Webb on 02 6252 7323 or email mark.webb@abs.gov.au.

The labour force data used for the international comparisons in this article were sourced from the OECD's web site data service Labour Market Statistics at <http://www.oecd.org> and ILO's web site data service Laborsta at <http://laborsta.ilo.org/>.

Employment in information and communication technology (Feature Article)

Feature Article - Employment in information and communication technology

Introduction

The importance of ICT in enhancing long-term economic growth, increasing productivity and furthering technological development was acknowledged in the ABS discussion paper **Measuring a Knowledge-based Economy and Society, An Australian Framework, 2002** (cat. no. 1375.0). This article uses data from the Labour Force Survey (LFS) to analyse various characteristics of persons employed in ICT occupations (also referred to as 'ICT workers') in Australia over the past five years.

Classification of ICT occupations

ABS collections use the **Australian Standard Classification of Occupations (ASCO) Second Edition** (cat. no. 1220.0) to classify occupations according to skill level and skill specialisation. LFS data on occupations are collected each February, May, August and November, and coded to the Unit Group (i.e. 4-digit) level of ASCO. For the purposes of this article, Unit Groups relating to ICT occupations have been grouped into two broader occupational groups: computing professionals and technicians; and electronic engineers/technicians and communication technicians.

Grouping	ASCO unit groupOccupation description
Computing professionals and technicians	1224Information technology managers 2231Computing professionals 3294Computing support technicians
Electronic engineers/ technicians and communication technicians	2125Electrical and electronic engineers 3124Electronic engineering associate professionals 4315Electronic and office equipment tradespersons 4316Communication tradespersons 9918Electrical and telecommunication trades assistants

Employment in ICT occupations

The total number of ICT workers has increased by 26% over the past five years, from 268,700 in 1998 to 337,500 in 2002. ICT workers comprised 3.6% of all employed persons in 2002, compared with 3.1% in 1998.

The following table shows, for 1998 to 2002, the number of persons employed in ICT occupations and the number of all employed persons. Data shown are annual averages.

EMPLOYED PERSONS, ICT occupation groups—total ICT workers and total employed—1998 to 2002(a)

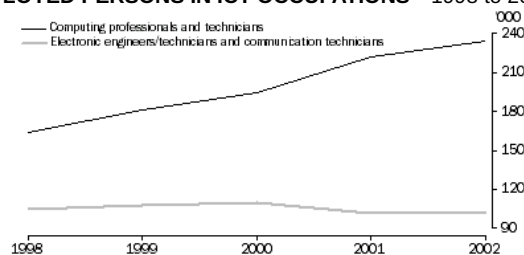
	1998 '000	1999 '000	2000 '000	2001 '000	2002 '000
Computing professionals and technicians					
Information technology managers	15.4	15.0	17.9	29.0	29.7
Computing professionals	132.1	141.0	150.8	162.9	174.3
Computing support technicians	16.8	24.6	25.9	30.0	30.8
Total	164.3	180.7	194.6	221.9	234.8
Electronic engineers/technicians and communication technicians					
Electrical and electronics engineers	24.1	27.2	25.2	24.8	25.5
Electronic engineering associate professionals	15.4	15.6	16.8	16.1	14.5
Electronic and office equipment tradespersons	34.6	33.9	37.4	32.7	36.9
Communications tradespersons	27.8	28.8	27.3	24.9	22.9
Electrical and telecommunications trades assistants	2.4	2.3	3.2	2.7	2.8
Total	104.4	107.9	109.8	101.1	102.7
Total ICT workers	268.7	288.5	304.4	323.0	337.5
Total employed	8,553.1	8,747.4	9,009.4	9,123.9	9,311.4
Proportion of total employed that are ICT workers (%)	3.1	3.3	3.4	3.5	3.6

(a) Annual average.
Labour Force Survey.

In 2002, about half of all ICT workers (52%) were computing professionals, a grouping which covers system managers, designers, programmers and auditors, software designers, and applications and analyst programmers.

Growth in ICT employment was strongest for computing professionals and technicians. The number of persons in these occupation groups increased by 43%, from 164,300 in 1998 to 234,800 in 2002. In comparison, the number of persons employed as electronic engineers/technicians and communication technicians remained relatively stable, declining by 1.6% over the five years to 2002 (from 104,400 to 102,700).

EMPLOYED PERSONS IN ICT OCCUPATIONS—1998 to 2002(a)



(a) Annual average.
Source: Labour Force Survey.

In 2002, 85% of all ICT workers were men, which is a considerably higher proportion than that of all employed persons (56%). The proportion of men is highest in electronic engineers/technicians and communication technician occupations. In 2002, 97% of persons employed in these occupations were men, compared with 80% of those employed as computing professionals and technicians.

The proportion of ICT workers who were women changed little between 1998 (16%) and 2002 (15%).

EMPLOYED PERSONS, ICT workers and total employed by sex - 1998 and 2002(a)

	1998			2002		
	Males '000	Females '000	Persons '000	Males '000	Females '000	Persons '000
ICT workers						
Computing professionals and technicians	127.0	37.3	164.3	187.2	47.6	234.8
Electronic engineers/ technicians and communication technicians	99.9	4.5	104.4	99.3	3.3	102.7
Total	226.9	41.8	268.7	286.6	50.9	337.5
Total employed	4,838.6	3,714.5	8,553.1	5,191.9	4,119.5	9,311.4
Proportion of total employed that are ICT workers (%)	4.7	1.1	3.1	5.5	1.2	3.6

(a) Annual average.
Labour Force Survey.

Unemployment in ICT

The LFS provides data on the last occupation of unemployed persons who had worked for two weeks or more within the previous two years. Of the 631,300 people unemployed in 2002 (average for the year), occupation was coded for 58%.

In 2002, there were 14,000 people, on average, who were unemployed but had last worked (for two weeks or more in the previous two years) in an ICT occupation. These represented 3.8% of all unemployed people who had occupation coded, which is similar to the proportion of employed people working in ICT occupations (3.6%).

Hours worked

In 2002, the proportion of ICT workers employed full-time was higher than the proportion of all employed persons working full-time (93% compared with 72%). Average hours usually worked each week were higher for ICT workers than all employed persons (41.5 hours compared with 37.0 hours). This difference is primarily due to the large proportion of ICT workers working full-time. Average weekly hours usually worked by full-time ICT workers were slightly lower than average hours usually worked by all full-time workers (43.1 hours compared with 44.6 hours).

Employed persons, ICT workers and total employed by average weekly hours usually worked in all jobs - 2002(a)

		ICT workers			Total employed
		Computing professionals and technicians	Electronic engineers/ technicians and communication technicians	Total	
Employed					
Full-time	%	93.2		93.1	71.7
Part-time	%	6.8		6.9	28.3
Total	%	100.0		100.0	100.0
Average weekly hours usually worked in all jobs					
Employed full-time	hours	43.2		42.9	44.6
Employed part-time	hours	19.9		16.3	17.7
Total	hours	41.6		41.0	37.0

(a) Annual average
Labour Force Survey.

Location

ICT workers tend to be concentrated in capital cities; in 2002, 81% of all persons employed in ICT occupations lived in a capital city, compared with 64% of all employed persons.

EMPLOYED PERSONS, ICT workers and total employed by state/territory and capital city/balance of state - 2002(a)

	ICT WORKERS			Total employed	Proportion of total employed that are ICT workers
	Computing professionals and technicians %	Electronic engineers/ technicians and communication technicians %	Total %		
New South Wales	38.2	38.3	38.2	33.2	4.2
Victoria	31.8	23.2	29.2	25.3	4.2
Queensland	10.4	15.9	12.1	18.8	2.3
South Australia	5.4	7.3	6.0	7.4	2.9
Western Australia	7.5	10.0	8.2	10.2	2.9
Tasmania	0.7	2.3	1.2	2.1	2.0
Northern Territory	0.4	0.7	0.5	1.1	1.7

Australian Capital Territory	5.6	2.3	4.6	1.8	9.1
Capital cities	84.4	73.4	81.1	64.0	4.6
Balance of states/territories	15.6	26.6	18.9	36.0	1.9
Australia	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	3.6

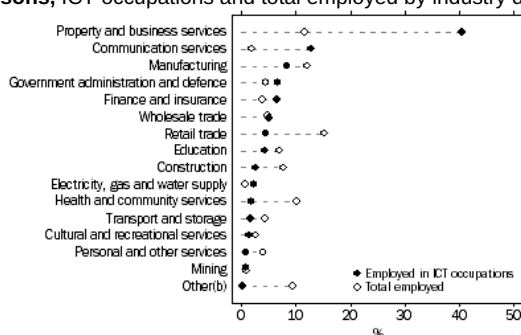
(a) Annual average.
Labour Force Survey.

The two most populous states, New South Wales and Victoria, had the greatest number of ICT workers (129,000 and 98,400 persons, respectively). However, the Australian Capital Territory had the greatest concentration of ICT workers, with 9.1% of all employed persons in ICT occupations. The lowest proportions of ICT workers were in the Northern Territory (1.7% of all employed persons) and Tasmania (2.0%).

Industry

The Property and business services industry (which includes a computer services sub-division) is the largest employer of ICT workers (41%, or 136,700 persons in 2002). Most ICT workers in this industry (84%) were in computing professionals and technicians occupations. The second highest number of ICT workers were in the Communication services industry (42,800 persons or 13%), with 62% of these people in electronic engineers/technicians and communication technicians occupations. More information on the businesses that produce and distribute information technology and telecommunication goods and services (many of which are in these two industry divisions) is available in **Information Technology, Australia, 2000-01** (cat. no. 8126.0).

Employed persons, ICT occupations and total employed by industry division - 2002(a)



(a) Annual average.
(b) Includes Agriculture, forestry and fishing and Accommodation, cafes and restaurants.
Source: Labour Force Survey.

Country of birth

The ICT labour force has a relatively high proportion of persons born overseas. In 2002, 37% of ICT workers were overseas-born, compared with 25% of all employed persons. In 1998 the corresponding proportions were 34% and 25%.

Employed persons, ICT occupations by country of birth - 1998 and 2002

	1998			2002		
	Born in Australia		Born overseas	Born in Australia		Born overseas
	'000	'000	%	'000	'000	%
Employed persons						
ICT workers	178.6	90.1	33.5	213.9	123.6	36.6
Total	6,454.4	2,098.7	24.5	7,027.0	2,284.4	24.5
Proportion of total employed that are ICT workers (%)	2.8	4.3	..	3.0	5.4	..

.. not applicable
Labour Force Survey.

FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information on the characteristics of persons in the ICT labour force, please contact Tim Power on Canberra 02 6252 7895, or via email at tim.power@abs.gov.au. For further information about the Labour Force Survey please contact Peter Bradbury on Canberra 02 6252 6565, or via email at peter.bradbury@abs.gov.au.

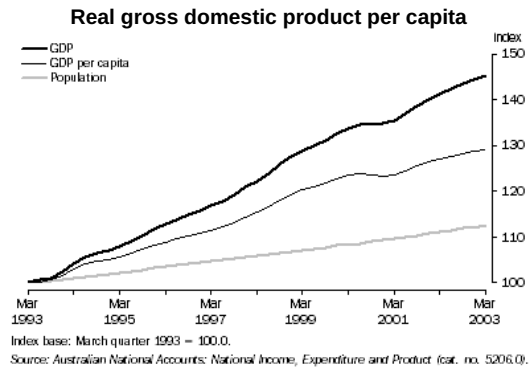
Population, Participation and Productivity - Contributions to Australia's Economic Growth (Feature Article)

Feature Article - Population, Participation and Productivity - Contributions to Australia's Economic Growth

INTRODUCTION

Following the downturn of the early 1990s, Australia experienced more than a decade of sturdy economic growth.

Between the March quarter 1993 and March quarter 2003, the average rate of growth in real gross domestic product (GDP, the total value of goods and services produced in Australia) was 3.8% a year. Over the same period, Australia's population grew at an average rate of 1.2% a year, leading to a growth in real per capita GDP (one measure of material living standards) of 2.6% a year.

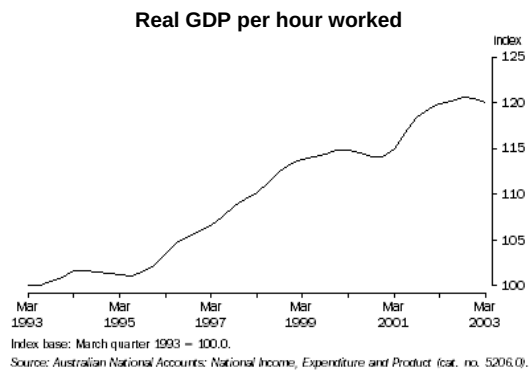


There are many ways of analysing economic growth. One illuminating perspective is in terms of changes in the amount and productivity of labour. This style of analysis, which was used in **Intergenerational Report: 2002-03 Budget Paper No. 5**, released by the Commonwealth Treasurer in May 2002, begins from the following decomposition:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Real GDP / Population} \\ &= \text{Real GDP / Hours worked (commonly called "labour productivity")} \\ &\quad \times \text{Hours worked / Employed persons ("average hours worked")} \\ &\quad \times \text{Employed persons / Labour force} \\ &\quad \times \text{Labour force / Population aged 15 years and over ("participation rate")} \\ &\quad \times \text{Population aged 15 years and over / Total population} \end{aligned}$$

Each of these components is examined in more detail in the following sections.

Labour productivity

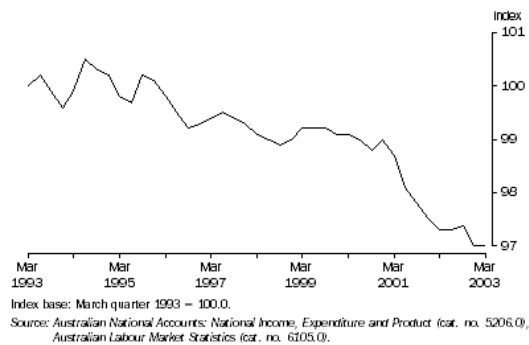


Between March 1993 and March 2003, the amount of real GDP per hour worked rose by more than 20% - an annual average growth of 1.8%.

The improvement in labour productivity reflects two kinds of change - increases in the ratio of capital to labour ("capital deepening") and improvements in multifactor productivity (the amount of output per unit of labour and capital combined).

Underlying these changes were influences such as technological advances, improvements to the quality of labour or management practices, and shifts of labour, capital and other inputs toward firms or industries that are more productive.

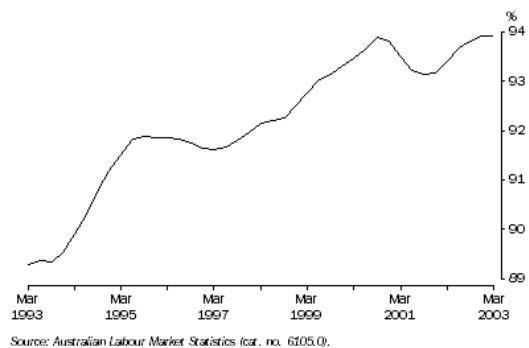
Average hours worked



Between March 1993 and March 2003, the average hours worked by employed persons fell by 3% - an annual average fall of 0.3%.

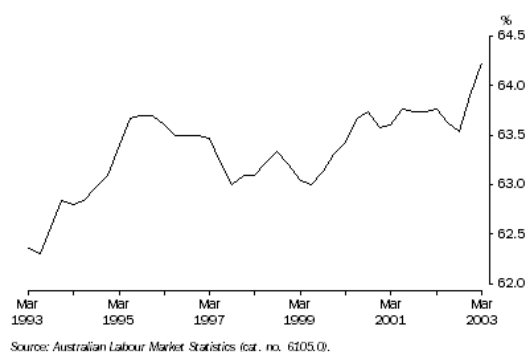
During this period, there was a strong rise in the number of part-time employees (up by 51%, whereas the number of full-time employees rose by 16%). There was a partly offsetting increase in the average working hours of full-time employees.

Ratio of employed persons to labour force



Between March 1993 and March 2003, the proportion of the labour force that was employed rose from 89% to 94% - an annual average growth of 0.5%. This was mirrored by a fall in the unemployment rate, and reflected in part the generally buoyant state of the Australian economy through the past decade.

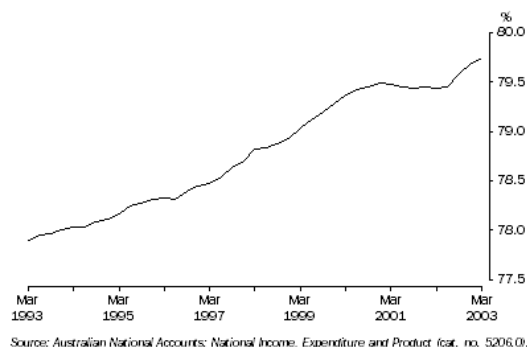
Participation rate



Between March 1993 and March 2003, the labour force participation rate rose from 62% to 64% - an annual average growth of 0.3%.

Males and females have shown opposite trends - the participation rate for males fell from 75% to 72%, whereas the rate for females rose from 52% to 56%.

Ratio of population aged 15 years and over to total population



Between March 1993 and March 2003, the proportion of the population that was 15 years of age or more rose from 78% to 80% - an annual average growth of 0.2%. This is consistent with the pattern of structural population ageing in Australia.

Conclusion

Component	Average annual growth rate Mar 93 to Mar 03 %
Real GDP / Hours worked (labour productivity)	1.8
Hours worked / Employed persons (average hours worked)	-0.3
Employed persons / Labour force	0.5
Labour force / Population aged 15 and over (participation rate)	0.3
Population aged 15 and over / Total population	0.2
Real GDP / Total population	2.6

Of the five components, the largest contributor to the growth in real per capita GDP during the past decade has been the improvement in labour productivity.

Explanatory Notes

Explanatory Notes

Introduction

1 Australian Labour Market Statistics brings together a range of ABS labour statistics to present a statistical summary of the Australian labour market. It has been developed primarily as a reference document, and provides a broad basis for labour analysis and research.

2 In addition to data from the Labour Force Survey (LFS), this publication contains statistics from a range of other ABS labour surveys including Average Weekly Earnings, the Wage Cost Index, Job Vacancies, Public Sector Employment and Industrial Disputes. The publication also includes summary data from recently released labour force supplementary surveys.

3 This publication also includes international data for selected labour market indicators. In the future, the publication may also include additional ABS and non-ABS labour market data.

Labour statistics concepts, sources and methods

4 The concepts and definitions underpinning ABS labour statistics align closely with the standards and guidelines set out in Resolutions of the International Conference of Labour Statisticians. Descriptions of the underlying concepts of Australia's labour market statistics, and the sources and methods used in compiling the estimates, are presented in **Labour Statistics: Concepts, Sources and Methods** (cat. no. 6102.0), which is also available on this web site (About Statistics - Concepts & Classifications).

5 For an explanation of terms used in this publication, refer to the Glossary.

Labour statistics theme page

6 The Labour Statistics theme page is a portal to all labour statistics and related information residing on the ABS web site. The page contains hyperlinks to **Labour Statistics: Concepts, Sources and Methods** (cat. no. 6102.0); information about labour related surveys including the data items each survey collects and contact details for further assistance; and a help page for respondents to ABS labour related surveys.

Trend estimates

7 Series in this publication include **original** and **trend** series. Special care should be taken in interpreting data for the most recent months and quarters, as some of the original and all of the trend series are subject to revision.

8 It is not uncommon for movements in original time series data and those provided from trend series to differ. Movements in a time series of original data may reflect several factors, including:

- longer-term changes in the item being measured (i.e. trend movements)
- short-term irregular changes
- regular seasonal influences
- normal 'trading', 'working' or 'pay' day patterns
- systematic holiday effects.

9 Trend estimates help the user to identify the underlying magnitude and direction of a time series. Seasonal adjustment removes the effect of the last three listed influences from the data, leaving only trend and short-term irregular movements. Trend estimates are then obtained by removing the effects of the short-term irregularities, which in some series can be a major contributor to movements in the original data.

10 Trend estimates are produced by smoothing the seasonally adjusted series using a statistical procedure based on Henderson moving averages. At each time point in a series, a trend estimate is calculated using a centred x-term Henderson moving average of the seasonally adjusted series. The moving averages are centred on the point in time at which the trend is being estimated. The number of terms used to calculate the trend varies across surveys. Generally, ABS monthly surveys use a 13-term moving average and quarterly surveys use a 7-term moving average.

11 Estimates for the most recent time points cannot be calculated using the centred average method as there are insufficient data to do so. Instead, alternative approaches that approximate the smoothing properties of the Henderson moving average are used. This can lead to revision in the trend estimates for the most recent time periods until sufficient data are available to calculate the trend using the centred Henderson moving average. Revisions of trend estimates will also occur with revisions to the original data and re-estimation of seasonal adjustment factors.

12 Seasonal factors are reviewed at least annually for ABS labour series, to take account of additional original data. The results of the latest reviews were used to compile the trend estimates given in this publication. For further information about the most recent reviews of seasonal factors for the labour surveys, see the following publications:

- for labour force see **Labour Force, Australia** (cat. no. 6202.0)
- for wage cost index see **Wage Cost Index, Australia** (cat. no. 6345.0)
- for average weekly earnings see **Average Weekly Earnings, Australia** (cat. no. 6302.0)
- for public sector employees see **Wage and Salary Earners, Public Sector, Australia** (cat. no. 6248.0.55.001)
- for job vacancies see **Job Vacancies, Australia** (cat. no. 6354.0).

13 The general methods used in the ABS for estimating trends are described in **Information Paper: A Guide to Interpreting Time Series - Monitoring Trends** (cat. no. 1349.0).

Reliability of estimates

14 Estimates in this publication are subject to two types of error:

- sampling error - errors that occur because the data were obtained from a sample rather than the entire population
- non-sampling error - errors that occur at any stage of a survey and can also occur in a census, e.g. incorrect responses to questions, processing errors, frame deficiencies.

15 For more information on these sources of error, and on measures of these types of errors, including standard errors, refer to the main publications associated with each of the data series presented in this publication (see the relevant sections later in these Explanatory Notes). More information on standard errors applying to LFS estimates is contained in **Information Paper: Labour Force Survey Standard Errors** (cat. no. 6298.0).

Rounding

16 Estimates have been rounded and discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and totals.

Labour Force Survey Data

Description of the survey

17 Data in tables 1.1-1.7, 2.1-2.10, 3.1-3.3, 4.3 and 4.4 are obtained from the Labour Force Survey (LFS), which provides extensive information about the labour market on a monthly basis. The LFS is a component of the Monthly Population Survey (MPS), which includes the LFS and supplementary surveys.

Monthly Population Survey

18 The MPS is a population survey based on a multi-stage area sample of private dwellings (currently about 30,000 houses, flats, etc.), and list samples of discrete Indigenous communities and non-private dwellings (hospitals, hotels, motels, etc.), and covers about 0.5% of the population of Australia. The information is obtained from occupants of selected dwellings by interviewers, with the first interview conducted

face-to-face and subsequent interviews over the telephone. Once selected, households are included for eight consecutive months before being replaced.

Labour Force Survey

19 The LFS has been conducted on a monthly basis since February 1978. Prior to that, from 1964 to 1978, a national survey was conducted quarterly. Telephone interviewing was introduced between August 1996 and February 1997. New questionnaires have been introduced periodically, most recently in April 2001.

20 The LFS includes all usual residents of Australia aged 15 and over except:

- members of the permanent defence forces
- certain diplomatic personnel of overseas governments, customarily excluded from census and estimated population counts
- overseas residents in Australia
- members of non-Australian defence forces (and their dependants) stationed in Australia.

21 From July 1993, Jervis Bay Territory has been excluded from the scope of the LFS.

Supplementary surveys

22 The supplementary surveys collect additional data on a different topic each month. Many topics covered are rotated on an annual or less frequent basis, while others are included once only. Results from each supplementary survey topic are released separately. A list of topics covered in recent years is in Appendix 3.

23 Tables 4.1 and 4.2 contain data from the annual supplementary surveys Underemployed Workers and Persons Not in the Labour Force. These tables are updated annually.

24 The supplementary surveys include a subset of the persons included in the LFS (see paragraph 20). The additional exclusions for most supplementary surveys are:

- persons living in private dwellings in remote and sparsely settled parts of Australia
- institutionalised persons
- boarding school pupils.

Reference period

25 Interviews are generally conducted during the two weeks beginning on the Monday between the 6th and 12th of each month, with questions relating to the week prior to the interview (the reference week).

26 From time to time, changes to survey methodology affect the time series produced. Some examples of changes to this survey are: new questions added to the LFS questionnaire in April 2001; and the introduction of telephone interviewing in 1996-97.

Population benchmarks

27 LFS estimates of persons employed, unemployed and not in the labour force are calculated in such a way as to add up to independently estimated counts (benchmarks) of the civilian population aged 15 years and over. These benchmarks are based on Census data adjusted for under-enumeration and updated for births, deaths, interstate migration, and net permanent and long-term migration. This procedure compensates for under-enumeration in the survey, and leads to more reliable estimates.

28 Population benchmarks used in the estimation of LFS data are revised after each Census, when population estimation bases are reviewed. These revisions affect original, seasonally adjusted and trend estimates. The last such revision was made in February 1999 to take account of the results of the 1996 Census. This revision affected all monthly estimates from January 1995 to January 1999. The next revision is scheduled for February 2004 to take account of the results from the 2001 Census.

Families series

29 Family relationship is not determined for all households and persons in scope of the LFS. This is due to a number of factors related to the scope and coverage of the LFS, as well as difficulties in determining family structure and characteristics. The survey questions used to determine family relationships are restricted to persons enumerated as usual residents of private dwellings. That is, the following persons are excluded:

- all persons enumerated in non-private dwellings (including hotels, motels, hospitals and other institutions)
- persons enumerated as visitors to (rather than usual residents of) private dwellings.

30 In addition, in those households where it is not possible to obtain information relating to all the usual residents, no family information is recorded. Thus, persons living in households which include a member of the permanent defence forces, who is outside the scope of the LFS, are excluded from survey questions used to determine family relationships. This also applies to households that, at the time of the survey, had one or more of their usual residents away for more than six weeks, and households from which an incomplete or inadequate questionnaire was obtained for any usual resident in scope of the survey.

Further information and data on the LFS

31 LFS estimates are published monthly in **Labour Force, Australia** (cat. no. 6202.0). A series of time-series spreadsheets are released at the same time as this publication under catalogue number 6202.0.55.001. More detailed estimates are released, in electronic format, later each month, under catalogue number 6291.0.55.001. All electronic data can be accessed via the ABS web site at <https://www.abs.gov.au>. Additional data are available on request.

32 For further information about the range of LFS products and services, and the concepts and methodology used in the LFS, refer to **Information Paper: Changes to Labour Force Survey Products** (cat. no. 6297.0), **Labour Statistics: Concepts, Sources and Methods** (cat. no. 6102.0), or contact the Assistant Director, Labour Force Survey on Canberra 02 6252 6565.

Employer Survey Data

33 Tables 2.11, 5.1-5.3, 6.1-6.2 and 7.1 of this publication contain data from ABS employer surveys.

Scope of employer surveys

34 Except where otherwise noted, the ABS labour employer surveys are selected from the ABS Business Register, which is primarily based on registrations to the Australian Taxation Office's (ATO) Pay As You Go Withholding scheme and (prior to 1 June 2000) the Group Employer scheme. The population is updated quarterly to take account of new businesses, business that have ceased employing, changes in employment levels, changes in industry, and other general business changes. Businesses excluded from the scope of the employer surveys are:

- those primarily engaged in Agriculture, forestry and fishing (except for the Survey of Employment and Earnings)
- private households employing staff
- overseas embassies, consulates, etc.
- those located outside Australia.

Job Vacancies Data

35 Table 7.1 contains data from the Job Vacancies Survey (JVS).

Description of the survey

36 The current Job Vacancies Survey has been conducted since November 1983 and is a quarterly sample survey of approximately 4,600 employers. The survey produces estimates of the number of job vacancies in Australia.

Reference date

37 The reference date for the survey is the third Friday of the middle month of the quarter.

Notes on data

38 Prior to the August quarter 1999, job vacancies statistics were collected as part of the Job Vacancies and Overtime Survey. The overtime component of the survey ceased following the May quarter 1999.

Further information

39 For further information about the range of products and services relating to ABS job vacancies statistics, and the concepts and methodology used, refer to **Job Vacancies, Australia** (cat. no. 6354.0), **Labour Statistics: Concepts, Sources and Methods** (cat. no. 6102.0), the associated time series spreadsheets available from the ABS web site, or contact the Manager, Job Vacancies Survey on Perth 08 9360 5304.

Public Sector Employees Data

Description of the survey

40 Data in table 2.11 are obtained from a quarterly survey of public sector businesses: the Survey of Employment and Earnings (SEE). This survey has been conducted on a quarterly basis since the September quarter 1983. The survey measures both the number of public sector wage and salary earners employed in the middle month of each quarter and their total quarterly earnings.

Reference period

41 The reference period for employees is the last pay period ending on or before the third Friday of the middle month of the quarter. The reference period for gross earnings is all pay periods which end within the quarter.

Notes on data

42 The private sector component of the Survey of Employment and Earnings was discontinued after the December quarter 2001.

Further information

43 For further information about the range of products and services relating to public service employees, and the concepts and methodology used, refer to **Wage and Salary Earners, Public Sector, Australia** (cat. no. 6248.0.55.001), **Labour Statistics: Concepts, Sources and Methods** (cat. no. 6102.0), or contact the Manager, Survey of Employment and Earnings, Public Sector on Perth 08 9360 3141.

Average Weekly Earnings Data

44 Table 5.2 contains data from the Survey of Average Weekly Earnings (AWE).

Description of the survey

45 The Survey of Average Weekly Earnings has been conducted quarterly since August 1981. Approximately 4,700 businesses contribute to the survey each quarter. The purpose of the survey is to measure average gross weekly earnings per employee job in Australia.

46 Average weekly earnings statistics represent average gross (before tax) earnings of employees and do not relate to average award rates nor to the earnings of the 'average person'. Estimates of average weekly earnings are derived by dividing estimates of weekly total earnings by estimates of number of employees. Changes in the averages may be affected not only by changes in the level of earnings of employees but also by changes in the overall composition of the wage and salary earner segment of the labour force.

Reference period

47 The reference period for the survey is the last pay period ending on or before the third Friday of the middle month of the quarter. For non-weekly payrolls, businesses are asked to provide one week's portion.

Further information

48 For further information about the range of products and services relating to average weekly earnings refer to **Average Weekly Earnings, Australia** (cat. no. 6302.0), **Labour Statistics: Concepts, Sources and Methods** (cat. no. 6102.0), the associated time series spreadsheets available from the ABS web site, or contact the Manager, Survey of Average Weekly Earnings on Perth 08 9360 5304.

Wage Cost Index Data

49 Table 5.1 contains data from the **Wage Cost Index, Australia** (cat. no. 6345.0) publication.

Description of the survey

50 The Wage Cost Index (WCI) is a price index which measures changes over time in wage and salary costs for employee jobs, unaffected by changes in the quality or quantity of work performed. Changes in wages and salaries resulting from changes in the composition of the labour market are excluded from the WCI movements. Index numbers have been compiled and published since December quarter 1997 (with a reference base of September quarter 1997 = 100.0). Approximately 19,000 matched jobs from 4,100 qualifying businesses are priced each quarter.

Reference period

51 The reference period for the survey is the last pay period ending on or before the third Friday of the mid-month of the quarter.

Notes on data

52 The Wage Cost Index collection methodology has not changed since its inception in September quarter 1997.

Further information

53 For further information about the range of products and services relating to the Wage Cost Index, and the concepts and methodology used, refer to **Wage Cost Index, Australia** (cat. no. 6345.0), **Information Paper: Wage Cost Index, Australia** (cat. no. 6346.0), **Labour Statistics: Concepts, Sources and Methods** (cat. no. 6102.0), the associated time series spreadsheets available from the ABS web site, or contact the Labour Price Index Output Group on Perth 08 9360 5151.

Industrial Disputes Data

54 Tables 6.1 and 6.2 contain data from the Industrial Disputes collection.

Description of the survey

55 The ABS has been collecting information about industrial disputes since 1913. The Industrial Disputes collection produces estimates of the number of industrial disputes (where ten or more working days are lost), employees involved, and working days lost.

56 The scope of the Industrial Disputes collection is restricted to employing businesses at which an industrial dispute has occurred. For this collection, industrial disputes are defined as work stoppages of ten working days or more. Ten working days are equivalent to the amount of

ordinary time worked by ten people in one day, regardless of the length of the stoppage, e.g. 3,000 workers on strike for two hours would be counted as 750 working days lost (assuming they work an eight-hour day).

57 Effects on other establishments not directly involved in the dispute, such as stand-downs because of lack of materials, disruption of transport services, power cuts, etc. are not included in the scope of this collection.

Reference period

58 The collection reference period is the calendar month. Data on working days lost are collated and published on a quarterly basis in this publication.

Further information

59 For further information about the range of products and services relating to ABS industrial disputes statistics, and the concepts and methodology used, refer to **Industrial Disputes, Australia** (cat. no. 6321.0), **Labour Statistics: Concepts, Sources and Methods** (cat. no. 6102.0), the associated time series spreadsheets available from the ABS web site, or contact the Manager, Industrial Disputes on Perth 08 9360 5159.

National accounts data

60 Table 5.3 contains data from the Australian National Accounts.

61 Estimates of compensation of employees are contained within the Income Accounts of the Australian National Accounts, which are published in **Australian System of National Accounts** (cat. no. 5204.0) and **Australian Economic Indicators** (cat. no. 1350.0). For further information on how estimates are obtained, see **Australian System of National Accounts: Concepts, Sources and Methods** (cat. no. 5216.0).

International data

62 Table 1.8 contains data from the International Labour Organisation.

63 Estimates of key indicators of the labour markets from various countries have been included for comparison with Australian estimates of labour force participation, employment, unemployment and unemployment rates.

Glossary

Active steps to find work

Includes writing, telephoning or applying in person to an employer for work; answering an advertisement for a job; checking factory noticeboards or the touchscreens at Centrelink offices; being registered with Centrelink as a jobseeker; checking or registering with any other employment agency; advertising or tendering for work; and contacting friends or relatives.

Actual hours worked

The hours actually worked during the reference week, not necessarily hours paid for.

Adult employees

Adult employees are those employees 21 years of age or over and those employees who, although under 21 years of age, are paid at the full adult rate for their occupation.

Aggregate (actual) hours worked

The total number of hours a group of employed persons has actually worked during the reference week, not necessarily hours paid for.

Attending full-time education

Persons aged 15-24 years who were enrolled full-time at secondary school, high school, Technical and Further Education (TAFE) college, university, or other educational institution in the reference week.

Average compensation per employee

National Accounts. The total compensation of employees divided by the number of employees.

Average earnings (National Accounts basis)

See **average compensation per employee**.

Average hours worked

Aggregate hours worked by a group divided by the number of persons in that group.

Average weekly earnings

Average weekly earnings represent average gross (before tax) earnings of employees and do not relate to average award rates nor to the earnings of the 'average person'. Estimates of average weekly earnings are derived by dividing estimates of weekly total earnings by estimates of number of employees. For information about scope exclusions applying to employer surveys, refer to paragraph 34 of the Explanatory Notes.

Civilian population aged 15 years and over

All usual residents of Australia aged 15 years and over except members of the permanent defence forces, certain diplomatic personnel of overseas governments customarily excluded from census and estimated population counts, overseas residents in Australia, and members of non-Australian defence forces (and their dependants) stationed in Australia.

Commonwealth government employees

Employees of all departments, agencies and authorities created by or reporting to the Commonwealth Parliament. Those bodies run jointly by the Commonwealth Government and state governments are classified to Commonwealth.

Compensation of employees

National Accounts. The total remuneration, in cash or in kind, payable by enterprises to employees in return for work done by the employees during the accounting period. Compensation of employees comprises wages and salaries (in cash and in kind) and **employers' social contributions**. Compensation of employees is not payable in respect of unpaid work undertaken voluntarily, including the work done by members of a household within an unincorporated enterprise owned by the same household. Compensation of employees excludes any taxes payable by the employer on the wage and salary bill (e.g. payroll tax, fringe benefits tax). See **Australian System of National Accounts: Concepts, Sources and Methods** (cat. no. 5216.0) for further information.

Contributing family worker

A person who works without pay, in an economic enterprise operated by a relative.

Country of birth

Classified according to the **Standard Australian Classification of Countries (SACC)** (cat. no. 1269.0).

Couple families

A family based on two persons who are in a registered or de facto marriage and who are usually resident in the same household.

Dependent child

Any child in a family under 15 years of age or aged 15-24 years who is attending full-time education (except those who have a partner or child of their own usually resident in the household).

Dependent student

A child who is 15-24 years of age, who is attending full-time education, and who has no partner or child of his or her own usually resident in the same household.

Discouraged jobseekers

Persons with marginal attachment to the labour force who wanted to work and were available to start work within the next four weeks but

whose main reason for not actively looking for work was that they believed they would not find a job for any of the following reasons:

- considered to be too young/too old by employers
- lacked necessary schooling, training, skills or experience
- difficulties because of language or ethnic background
- no jobs in their locality or line of work
- no jobs available at all.

Duration of unemployment

Under the redesigned LFS questionnaire, implemented in April 2001, the definition of duration of unemployment is the period of time from when an unemployed person began looking for work, until the end of the reference week; or the period of time since an unemployed person last worked in any job for two weeks or more, until the end of the reference week; whichever was the shorter period.

Prior to April 2001, duration of unemployment was defined in the LFS as the period of time from when an unemployed person began looking for work, until the end of the reference week; or the period of time since an unemployed person last worked full-time for two weeks or more, until the end of the reference week; whichever was the shorter period.

Employed

Employed persons include all persons aged 15 years and over who, during the reference week:

- worked for one hour or more for pay, profit, commission or payment in kind in a job or business, or on a farm (comprising employees, employers and own account workers)
- worked for one hour or more without pay in a family business or on a farm (i.e. contributing family workers)
- were employees who had a job but were not at work and were
 - away from work for less than four weeks up to the end of the reference week
 - away from work for more than four weeks up to the end of the reference week and received pay for some or all of the four week period to the end of the reference week
 - away from work as a standard work or shift arrangement
 - on strike or locked out
 - on workers' compensation and expected to return to their job
- were employers or own account workers, who had a job, business or farm, but were not at work.

Employed full-time

See **full-time employed**.

Employed part-time

See **part-time employed**.

Employee

Labour Force Survey and other household surveys. A person who works for a public or private employer and receives remuneration in wages, salary, a retainer fee from their employer while working on a commission basis, tips, piece rates, or payment in kind, or a person who operates their own incorporated enterprise with or without hiring employees.

Employer surveys. Employees are wage and salary earners who received pay for any part of the reference period. For information about scope exclusions applying to employer surveys, refer to paragraph 34 of the Explanatory Notes.

Employee job

Wage Cost Index. A job for which the occupant receives remuneration in wages, salary, payment in kind, or piece rates. All employee jobs in all employing organisations (except those excluded from all ABS labour employer surveys) are in scope of the WCI, except the following:

- 'non-maintainable' jobs (i.e. jobs that are expected to be occupied for less than six months of a year)
- jobs for which wages and salaries are not determined by the Australian labour market (e.g. working proprietors of small incorporated enterprises, most employees of Community Development Employment Programs, jobs where the remuneration is set in a foreign country).

For information about scope exclusions applying to employer surveys, refer to paragraph 34 of the Explanatory Notes.

Employer

Labour Force Survey and other household surveys. A person who operates their own unincorporated economic enterprise or engages independently in a profession or trade, and hires one or more employees.

Employer surveys. A business with one or more employees.

Employers' social contributions

National Accounts. Contributions by employers to pension and superannuation funds; and premiums paid by employers to workers' compensation schemes for occupational injuries and diseases.

Extended labour force underutilisation rate

The unemployed, plus the underemployed, plus two groups of marginally attached to the labour force:

- (i) persons actively looking for work, not available to start work in the reference week, but available to start work within four weeks and
- (ii) discouraged jobseekers

as a percentage of the labour force augmented by (i) and (ii).

Family

Two or more persons, one of whom is at least 15 years of age, who are related by blood, marriage (registered or de facto), adoption, step or fostering; and who are usually resident in the same household. The basis of a family is formed by identifying the presence of a couple relationship, lone parent-child relationship or other blood relationship. Some households will, therefore, contain more than one family.

Family reference person

In families which are not couple families or one-parent families, as defined, the family reference person is the eldest person in the household.

Former workers

Unemployed persons who have previously worked for two weeks or more but not in the last two years.

Full-time educational attendance

Persons aged 15-19 who, during the reference week were enrolled full-time at secondary or high schools, and those aged 15-24 who, during the reference week, were enrolled full-time at a Technical and Further Education (TAFE) college, university, or other tertiary educational institution.

Full-time employed

Household surveys. Persons employed full-time are those employed persons who usually worked 35 hours or more a week (in all jobs) and those who, although usually working less than 35 hours a week, worked 35 hours or more during the reference week.

Full-time employees

Employer surveys. Full-time employees are permanent, temporary and casual employees who normally work the agreed or award hours for a full-time employee in their occupation and received pay for any part of the reference period. If agreed or award hours do not apply, employees are regarded as full-time if they ordinarily work 35 hours or more per week.

Gross domestic product (GDP)

National Accounts. The total market value of goods and services produced in Australia within a given period after deducting the cost of goods and services used up in the process of production but before deducting allowances for the consumption of fixed capital. Thus gross domestic product, as here defined, is at 'market prices'. It is equivalent to gross national expenditure plus exports of goods and services less imports of goods and services. See **Australian System of National Accounts: Concepts, Sources and Methods** (cat. no. 5216.0) for further information.

Gross mixed income (GMI)

National Accounts. The owners of unincorporated enterprises, or other members of their households, may work without receiving any wage or salary. Mixed income includes both **gross operating surplus** for the unincorporated enterprises and returns for the proprietors' own labour (akin to wages and salaries). See **Australian System of National Accounts: Concepts, Sources and Methods** (cat. no. 5216.0) for further information.

Gross operating surplus (GOS)

National Accounts. The amount of gross output remaining after subtracting costs incurred in producing that output, but before any deductions for consumption of fixed capital. See **Australian System of National Accounts: Concepts, Sources and Methods** (cat. no. 5216.0) for further information.

Household

A group of one or more persons in a private dwelling who consider themselves to be separate from other persons (if any) in the dwelling, and who make regular provision to take meals separately from other persons, i.e. at different times or in different rooms. Lodgers who receive accommodation but no meals are treated as separate households. Boarders who receive both accommodation and meals are not treated as separate households. A household may consist of any number of families and non-family members.

Industrial dispute

A withdrawal from work by a group of employees, or a refusal by an employer or a number of employers to permit some or all of their employees to work, each withdrawal or refusal being made in order to enforce a demand, to resist a demand, or to express a grievance.

Industry

An industry is a group of businesses or organisations that perform similar sets of activities in terms of the production of goods and services. Industry is classified according to the **Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (ANZSIC), 1993** (cat. no. 1292.0). The industry assigned to an employed person is the industry of the organisation in which the person's main job is located. Unemployed persons who had worked for two weeks or more in the last two years are classified according to the industry of their most recent job.

Job leavers

Unemployed persons who have worked for two weeks or more in the past two years and **left that job voluntarily** - that is, because (for example): of unsatisfactory work arrangements/pay/hours; the job was a holiday job or they left the job to return to studies; or their last job was running their own business and they closed down or sold that business for reasons other than financial difficulties.

Job losers

Unemployed persons who have worked for two weeks or more in the past two years and **left that job involuntarily**: that is, they were laid off or retrenched from that job; left that job because of their own ill-health or injury; the job was seasonal or temporary; or their last job was running their own business and the business closed down because of financial difficulties.

Job vacancy

A job vacancy is an employee job available for immediate filling on the survey reference date and for which recruitment action has been taken. Recruitment action includes efforts to fill vacancies by advertising, by factory notices, by notifying public or private employment agencies or trade unions and by contacting, interviewing or selecting applicants already registered with the enterprise or organisation. Excluded are vacancies:

- for jobs which became vacant on the survey date and were filled that same day
- for jobs of less than one day's duration
- to be filled by persons already hired, or by promotion or transfer of existing employees
- to be filled by employees returning from paid or unpaid leave or after industrial dispute(s)
- not available for immediate filling on the survey reference date
- for work to be carried out by contractors
- for which no recruitment action has been taken
- where a person has been appointed but has not yet commenced duty
- to be filled by staff from contract labour agencies
- for jobs available only to persons already employed by the enterprise or organisation.

For information about scope exclusions applying to employer surveys, refer to paragraph 34 of the Explanatory Notes.

Labour force

The labour force is the labour supply available for the production of economic goods and services in a given period, and is the most widely used measure of the economically active population. Persons in the labour force are classified as either employed or unemployed according to their activities during the reference period by using a specific set of priority rules.

Labour force status

A classification of the civilian population aged 15 years and over into employed, unemployed or not in the labour force, as defined. The definitions conform closely to the international standard definitions adopted by the International Conferences of Labour Statisticians.

Labour force underutilisation rate

The unemployed plus the underemployed, as a percentage of the labour force.

Local government employees

Employees of municipalities and shires and other local authorities created by or subject to the provisions of local government legislation, such as county councils in New South Wales.

Lone parent

A person who has no spouse or partner present in the household but who forms a parent-child relationship with at least one dependent or non-dependent child usually resident in the household.

Lone person

A person who makes provision for their food and other essentials for living, without combining with any other person to form part of a multi-person household. They may live in a dwelling on their own or share a dwelling with another individual or family.

Long-term unemployed

Persons unemployed for 12 months or more. See **duration of unemployment** for details of the calculation of duration of unemployment.

Long-term unemployment rate

The number of long-term unemployed persons expressed as a percentage of the labour force.

Marginal attachment to the labour force

Persons who were not in the labour force in the reference week, wanted to work, and:

- were actively looking for work but did not meet the availability criteria to be classified as unemployed or
- were not actively looking for work but were available to start work within four weeks or could start work within four weeks if child care was available.

The criteria for determining those in the labour force are based on activity (i.e. working or looking for work) and availability to start work during the reference week. The criteria associated with marginal attachment to the labour force, in particular the concepts of wanting to work and reasons for not actively looking for work, are more subjective. Hence, the measurement against these criteria is affected by the respondent's own interpretation of the concepts used. An individual respondent's interpretation may be affected by their work aspirations, as well as family, economic and other commitments.

Marital status

See **social marital status**.

Mean age

The sum of the ages of all the persons in a group, divided by the total number of persons in that group.

Mean duration of unemployment

The sum of the duration of unemployment of all the unemployed persons in a group, divided by the total number of unemployed persons in that group.

Median age

The age which divides a group of persons into two equal groups: one comprising persons whose age is above the median; and the other, persons whose age is below it.

Median duration of unemployment

The duration which divides unemployed persons into two equal groups: one comprising persons whose duration of unemployment is above the median; and the other, persons whose duration is below it.

Non-dependent child

A child of a couple or lone parent usually resident in the household, aged over 15 years and who is not a dependent student aged 15-24 years, and who has no partner or child of their own usually resident in the household.

Non-family member

A person who is not related to any other member of the household in which they are living.

Not in the labour force

Persons who were not classified as employed or unemployed.

Occupation

An occupation is a collection of jobs that are sufficiently similar in their main tasks to be grouped together for the purposes of classification. Occupation is classified according to the **ASCO Australian Standard Classification of Occupations, Second Edition** (cat. no. 1220.0). The occupation assigned to an employed person relates to the person's main job. Unemployed persons who had worked for two weeks or more in the last two years are classified according to the occupation of their most recent job.

One-parent family

A family consisting of a lone parent with at least one dependent or non-dependent child (regardless of age) who is also usually resident in the household.

Ordinary time earnings

See **weekly ordinary time earnings**.

Original series

Estimates produced directly from the survey data, before seasonal adjustment or trend estimation takes place.

Other family

Related individuals residing in the same household who do not form a couple or parent-child relationship with any other person in the household and are not attached to a couple or one parent family in the household. If two brothers, for example, are living together and neither is a spouse, a lone parent or a child, then they are classified as other family.

Overtime earnings

See **weekly overtime earnings**.

Own-account worker

A person who operates his or her own unincorporated economic enterprise or engages independently in a profession or trade, and hires no employees.

Participation rate

The labour force participation rate for any group within the population is the labour force component of that population, expressed as a percentage of the population in that group.

Part-time employed

Household surveys. Persons employed part-time are those employed persons who usually worked less than 35 hours a week (in all jobs) and either did so during the reference week, or were not at work in the reference week.

Reason for leaving last job

Unemployed persons who had worked for two weeks or more in the past two years classified by whether they left that job voluntarily, that is, job leavers; or left that job involuntarily, that is, job losers.

Seasonally adjusted series

A time series of estimates with the estimated effects of normal seasonal variation removed. See paragraphs 7-13 of the Explanatory Notes for more detail.

Social marital status

Social marital status is the relationship status of an individual with reference to another person who is usually resident in the household. A marriage exists when two people live together as husband and wife, or partners, regardless of whether the marriage is formalised through registration. Individuals are, therefore, regarded as married if they are in a de facto marriage, or if they are living with the person to whom they are registered as married.

State capital cities

The areas determining the six state capital cities are the Statistical Divisions for those capital cities defined in the **Statistical Geography: Volume 1 - Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC)** (cat. no. 1216.0).

State government employees

Employees of all State government departments and authorities created by, or reporting to, State Parliaments, including organisations for which the Commonwealth has assumed financial responsibility. Following self-government, the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory administrations have been classified to State Governments. Employees of State Governments employed interstate are included in the estimates of the State in which they are based.

Status in employment

Employed persons classified by whether they were employees, employers, own account workers or contributing family workers.

Total earnings

See **weekly total earnings**.

Total hourly rates of pay index

Wage Cost Index. This index measures quarterly change in combined ordinary time and overtime hourly rates of pay. See **Wage Cost Index, Australia** (cat. no. 6345.0) for more information.

Trend series

A smoothed seasonally adjusted series of estimates. See paragraphs 7-13 of the Explanatory Notes for more detail.

Underemployed workers

Underemployed workers are employed persons who want, and are available for, more hours of work than they currently have. They comprise:

- persons employed part-time who want to work more hours and are available to start work with more hours, either in the reference week or in the four weeks subsequent to the survey
- persons employed full-time who worked part-time hours in the reference week for economic reasons (such as being stood down or insufficient work being available). It is assumed that these people wanted to work full-time in the reference week and would have been available to do so.

Unemployed

Persons aged 15 years and over who were not employed during the reference week, and

- had actively looked for full-time or part-time work at any time in the four weeks up to the end of the reference week and
 - were available for work in the reference week, or
 - were waiting to start a new job within four weeks from the end of the reference week and could have started in the reference week if the job had been available then.

Unemployed looking for first full-time job

Unemployed persons looking for full-time work who had never worked full-time for two weeks or more.

Unemployed looking for first job

Unemployed persons who had never worked for two weeks or more.

Unemployed looking for full-time work

Unemployed persons who:

- actively looked for full-time work at any time in the four weeks up to the end of the reference week, and were available for work in the reference week, or
- actively looked for work at any time in the four weeks up to the end of the reference week, and were not available for work in the reference week because they were waiting to start a new full-time job.

Unemployed looking for part-time work

Unemployed persons who:

- actively looked for part-time work only at any time in the four weeks up to the end of the reference week, and were available for work in the reference week, or
- actively looked for work at any time in the four weeks up to the end of the reference week, and were not available for work in the reference week because they were waiting to start a new part-time job.

Unemployment rate

The number of unemployed persons expressed as a percentage of the labour force.

Unemployment to population ratio

For any group, the number of unemployed persons expressed as a percentage of the civilian population aged 15 and over in the same group.

Usual hours worked

The hours usually worked per week by an employed person.

Wage and salary earners

See **employee**.

Weekly ordinary time earnings

Weekly ordinary time earnings refers to one week's earnings of employees for the reference period attributable to award, standard or agreed hours of work, calculated before taxation and any other deductions (e.g. superannuation, board and lodging) have been made. Included are piecework payments and one week's portion of regular production and task bonuses and commissions. Excluded are overtime payments and payments not related to the reference period, e.g. bonus payments for earlier periods of work.

Weekly overtime earnings

Weekly overtime earnings refers to payment for hours worked in the reference week in excess of award, standard or agreed hours of work, calculated before taxation and any other deductions (e.g. superannuation) have been made.

Weekly total earnings

Weekly total earnings of employees is equal to weekly ordinary time earnings plus weekly overtime earnings.

Working days lost

Refers to working days lost by employees directly and indirectly involved in an industrial dispute. For some disputes working days lost are

estimated on the basis of the number of employees involved and the duration of the dispute.

Working days lost per thousand employees

Calculated by dividing the total number of working days lost by the total number of employees and multiplying by 1,000. The number of employees is obtained from the Labour Force Survey.

Abbreviations

The following abbreviations have been used in this publication

ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
ANZSIC	Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification
ASCO	Australian Standard Classification of Occupations
ASGC	Australian Standard Geographical Classification
ATO	Australian Taxation Office
AWE	average weekly earnings
AWOTE	average weekly ordinary time earnings
EEH	Survey of Employee Earnings and Hours
GDP	gross domestic product
ID	industrial disputes
ILO	International Labour Organisation
JVS	Job Vacancies Survey
LFS	Labour Force Survey
MPS	Monthly Population Survey
qtr	quarter
RSE	relative standard error
SACC	Standard Australian Classification of Countries
SEE	Survey of Employment and Earnings
WCI	wage cost index

Data sources for tables (Appendix)

Data sources for tables

How to find data sources

To find a publication on the ABS web site, go to <https://www.abs.gov.au> [Publications]. Search for the first two digits of the catalogue number under the subject listing, e.g. to find the publication **Labour Force, Australia** (cat. no. 6202.0), look under '62. Labour force'. Catalogue numbers are listed under the relevant subject listing.

Similarly, to find a spreadsheet, go to <https://www.abs.gov.au> [Time Series Spreadsheets], and to find a data cube, go to <https://www.abs.gov.au> [Data Cubes]. Individual numbered spreadsheets and data cubes are listed under the catalogue number. Monthly, quarterly and annual products are listed separately.

No.	Table description	Data source	Notes
1.1	Trend	Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0)	
1.2	Age by marital status	6202.0.55.001 spreadsheet table 1	
1.3	States and territories	6291.0.55.001 spreadsheet table 1	
		Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0)	Excludes Capital city/balance of state
		6291.0.55.001 spreadsheet table 2	
1.4	Educational attendance	6291.0.55.001 spreadsheet table 3	More detailed Age
1.5	Country of birth	6291.0.55.001 data cube LM4	Includes Sex, State, Less detailed Country of birth
		6291.0.55.001 data cube LM5	Includes Sex, Age, State, Less detailed Country of birth
		6291.0.55.001 data cube LM6	Includes Sex, State
		6291.0.55.001 data cube LM7	Includes Sex, State, Less detailed Country of birth
	Year of arrival	6291.0.55.001 data cube LM4	Includes Sex, State, Less detailed Country of birth
		6291.0.55.001 data cube LM7	Includes Sex, State, Less detailed Country of birth
1.6	Relationship in household	6291.0.55.001 data cube FM1	Includes State
		6291.0.55.001 data cube FM2	Includes Age
		6291.0.55.001 data cube FM3	Includes Hours worked
		6291.0.55.001 data cube FM4	Unemployed persons only, Includes Duration of unemployment
1.7	Families	ABS data available on request, Labour Force.	
		International Labour Organisation	
1.8	International comparisons	http://www.ilo.org , Year Book of Labour Statistics	
		1998, 2000, 2001 and 2002	

2.1	Industry: trend	6291.0.55.001 spreadsheet table 4	Includes Employed full-time, Employed part-time
2.2	Industry: divisions and subdivisions	6291.0.55.001 spreadsheet table 6 6291.0.55.001 data cube E03 6291.0.55.001 data cube E05 6291.0.55.001 data cube E06	Includes Sex, State, Hours worked, Less detailed Industry Includes Sex, Age, Status in employment, Hours worked Includes Sex, State, Status in employment, Hours worked, More detailed Industry Less detailed Occupation Includes Hours worked, Less detailed Occupation Includes Age, Hours worked, Status in employment Includes State, Status in employment, More detailed Occupation
2.3	Occupation	6291.0.55.001 spreadsheet table 7 6291.0.55.001 spreadsheet table 12 6291.0.55.001 data cube E07 6291.0.55.001 data cube E08	Includes State, Hours worked Includes Sex, State, Excludes Industry Includes Sex, Age, More detailed Industry Includes Sex, State, More detailed Industry Includes Sex, State, Excludes Occupation Includes Sex, Age, More detailed Occupation Includes Sex, State, More detailed Occupation Excludes Hours worked, Includes Sex, Employed full-time, Employed part-time Includes Sex Includes Sex, State Includes Sex, Age, Industry Includes Sex, State, Industry Includes Sex, Age, Occupation Includes Sex, State, Occupation
2.4	Industry and Occupation by full-time part-time status	6291.0.55.001 data cube E09	
2.5	Industry by status in employment	6291.0.55.001 data cube E04 6291.0.55.001 data cube E05 6291.0.55.001 data cube E06 6291.0.55.001 data cube E04 6291.0.55.001 data cube E07 6291.0.55.001 data cube E08	
	Occupation by status in employment	6291.0.55.001 data cube E08	
	Hours worked in all jobs by status in employment	6291.0.55.001 spreadsheet table 8 6291.0.55.001 spreadsheet table 13 6291.0.55.001 data cube E04 6291.0.55.001 data cube E05 6291.0.55.001 data cube E06 6291.0.55.001 data cube E07 6291.0.55.001 data cube E08	
2.6	Average hours worked in all jobs by Industry	6291.0.55.001 spreadsheet table 11 6291.0.55.001 data cube E03 6291.0.55.001 data cube E05 6291.0.55.001 data cube E06 6291.0.55.001 data cube E09	Includes State Includes Age, Status in employment, More detailed Industry Includes State, Status in employment, More detailed Industry Includes State, Occupation
	Average hours worked in all jobs by Occupation	6291.0.55.001 spreadsheet table 12 6291.0.55.001 data cube E07 6291.0.55.001 data cube E08 6291.0.55.001 data cube E09	Includes Age, Status in employment, More detailed Occupation Includes State, Status in employment, More detailed Occupation Includes State, Industry
2.7	Actual hours worked in all jobs	6291.0.55.001 data cube E03 6291.0.55.001 spreadsheet table 9 6291.0.55.001 spreadsheet table 11 6291.0.55.001 spreadsheet table 12 6291.0.55.001 spreadsheet table 13 6291.0.55.001 data cube EM1 6291.0.55.001 data cube E03 6291.0.55.001 data cube E04	Includes Industry Includes Occupation Includes Status in employment Includes Age, State Includes State, Industry Includes State, Status in employment
2.8	Actual hours worked in all jobs	6291.0.55.001 spreadsheet table 9 6291.0.55.001 spreadsheet table 11 6291.0.55.001 spreadsheet table 12 6291.0.55.001 spreadsheet table 13 6291.0.55.001 data cube EM1 6291.0.55.001 data cube E03 6291.0.55.001 data cube E04 6291.0.55.001 spreadsheet table 10 6291.0.55.001 data cube EM3 6291.0.55.001 data cube E10	Includes Industry Includes Occupation Includes Status in employment Includes Age, State Includes State, Industry Includes State, Status in employment
	Usual hours worked in all jobs	6291.0.55.001 data cube EM2	Includes Age, State Includes State, Industry
2.9	Full-time workers who worked less than 35 hours in all jobs	6291.0.55.001 data cube EM2	Includes Age, State, Hours worked
2.10	Future employment expectations by job tenure	6291.0.55.001 data cube E02	Excludes Future employment expectations, Includes State, Age
2.11	Public sector employees	Wage and Salary Earners, Public Sector, Australia (cat. no. 6248.0)	
	Public sector employees: Australia Totals	6248.0 spreadsheet table 1	Includes State
	Public sector employees by Level of government: Trend	6248.0 spreadsheet table 2 6248.0 spreadsheet table 3 6248.0 spreadsheet table 4	Includes Commonwealth government, State, Seasonally adjusted and Original data Includes State government, State, Seasonally adjusted and Original data Includes Local government, State, Seasonally adjusted and Original data

	Public sector employees by State: Trend	6248.0 spreadsheet table 1	Includes Seasonally adjusted and Original data
		6248.0 spreadsheet table 2	Includes Commonwealth government, Seasonally adjusted and Original data
		6248.0 spreadsheet table 3	Includes State government, Seasonally adjusted and Original data
		6248.0 spreadsheet table 4	Includes Local government, Seasonally adjusted and Original data
		6248.0 spreadsheet table 7a	Includes Industry
	Public sector employees by Industry: Original	6248.0 spreadsheet table 7a	Includes State
	Unemployed persons: Duration of unemployment by Age	6291.0.55.001 data cube UM2	Excludes Age, Median Duration of unemployment
3.1		6291.0.55.001 data cube UM3	Excludes Median Duration of unemployment
3.2	Long-term unemployed	6291.0.55.001 spreadsheet table 15b	
		6291.0.55.001 data cube UM2	Excludes Trend data, Includes State, More detailed Duration of unemployment
		6291.0.55.001 data cube UM3	Excludes Trend data, Includes State, Age
3.3	Unemployed persons: Reason for unemployment by Industry of last job	6291.0.55.001 data cube UQ1	Excludes Industry of last job
		6291.0.55.001 data cube UQ2	Excludes Reason for unemployment
	Unemployed persons: Reason for unemployment by Occupation of last job	6291.0.55.001 data cube UQ1	Excludes Occupation of last job
		6291.0.55.001 data cube UQ3	Excludes Reason for unemployment
4.1	Underutilised labour	Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6203.0), October 2002	Article in publication
4.2	Underutilised labour - states	Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6203.0), October 2002	Article in publication
4.3	Part-time workers	6291.0.55.001 data cube E01	Less detailed Hours worked
4.4	Persons not in the labour force	6291.0.55.001 data cube NM1	
5.1	Wage cost index	Wage Cost Index, Australia (cat. no. 6345.0)	
	Wage cost index: Trend data	6345.0 spreadsheet table 1B	
	Wage cost index: Australia, States and territories	6345.0 spreadsheet table 2B	
	Wage cost index: Private sector	6345.0 spreadsheet table 3B	Includes States and territories
	Wage cost index: Public sector	6345.0 spreadsheet table 4B	Includes States and territories
	Wage cost index: Industry	6345.0 spreadsheet table 5B	Includes Sector
	Wage cost index: Occupation	6345.0 spreadsheet table 7B	Includes Sector
5.2	Average weekly earnings	Average Weekly Earnings, Australia (cat. no. 6302.0)	
	Average weekly earnings by Sex	6302.0 spreadsheet table 1	Includes Full-time adult total earnings
	Average weekly earnings: Private sector	6302.0 spreadsheet table 4	Includes Full-time adult total earnings
	Average weekly earnings: Public sector	6302.0 spreadsheet table 7	Includes Full-time adult total earnings
5.3	Compensation of employees	Australian National Accounts: National Income, Expenditure and Product (cat. no. 5206.0)	
6.1	Industrial disputes: Working days lost	Industrial Disputes, Australia (cat. no. 6321.0)	
	Industrial disputes: Working days lost by State	6321.0 spreadsheet table 3	
	Industrial disputes: Working days lost by Industry	6321.0 spreadsheet table 2	
6.2	Industrial disputes: Working days lost per 1,000 employees	ABS data available on request, Industrial Disputes	
7.1	Job vacancies	Job Vacancies, Australia (cat. no. 6354.0)	
	Job vacancies: Australia, States and Territories	6354.0 spreadsheet table 1C	

latest releases (Appendix)

To find the latest release, click on the associated link below.

Title	cat. no.	Frequency
Information papers and other reference material		
ABS Labour Market Statistics	6106.0.55.001	Irregular
Australian System of National Accounts: Concepts, Sources & Methods	5216.0	Irregular
Changes to Labour Force Survey Products	6297.0	Irregular
Forthcoming Changes to Labour Force Statistics	6292.0	Irregular
Implementing the Redesigned Labour Force Survey Questionnaire	6295.0	Irregular
Labour Force Survey Sample Design	6269.0	Irregular
Labour Force Survey Standard Errors	6298.0	Irregular
Labour Statistics: Concepts, Sources & Methods	6102.0	Irregular
Questionnaires Used in the Labour Force Survey	6232.0	Irregular
Wage Cost Index	6346.0	Irregular
Labour force supplementary surveys		
Career Experience	6254.0	Irregular
Child Care	4402.0	Irregular
Education & Work	6227.0	Annual
Employee Earnings, Benefits & Trade Union Membership	6310.0	Annual
Forms of Employment	6359.0	Irregular
Job Search Experience	6222.0	Annual
Labour Force Experience	6206.0	Biennial
Labour Force Status & Other Characteristics of Families(a)	6224.0	Discontinued
Labour Force Status & Other Characteristics of Migrants	6250.0	Irregular
Labour Mobility	6209.0	Biennial
Locations of Work	6275.0	Irregular
Multiple Jobholding(b)	6216.0	Discontinued
Persons Not in the Labour Force	6220.0	Annual

Retirement & Retirement Intentions	6238.0	Irregular
Retrenchment & Redundancy	6266.0	Irregular
Underemployed Workers	6265.0	Annual
Work-Related Injuries	6324.0	Irregular
Working Arrangements	6342.0	Irregular
Sub-annual labour surveys		
Average Weekly Earnings	6302.0	Quarterly
Industrial Disputes	6321.0	Monthly
Job Vacancies	6354.0	Quarterly
Labour Force	6202.0	Monthly
Wage & Salary Earners, Public Sector	6248.0	Quarterly
Wage Cost Index	6345.0	Quarterly
Other labour surveys		
Employee Earnings & Hours	6306.0	Biennial
Employer Training Expenditure & Practices	6362.0	Irregular
Labour Costs	6348.0	Irregular
Other publications		
Australian Economic Indicators	1350.0	Monthly
Australian National Accounts: National Income, Expenditure & Product	5206.0	Quarterly
Australian Social Trends	4102.0	Annual
Australian System of National Accounts	5204.0	Annual
Australians' Employment & Unemployment Patterns: First Results	6289.0	Irregular
Business Indicators	5676.0	Quarterly
Census of Population & Housing: Selected Education & Labour Force Statistics	2017.0	Irregular
Education & Training Indicators	4230.0	Irregular
Employment Arrangements & Superannuation	6361.0	Irregular
General Social Survey	4159.0	Irregular
Government Benefits, Taxes & Household Income	6537.0	Irregular
Household Income & Income Distribution	6523.0	Irregular
Measuring Australia's Progress	1370.0	Irregular
Regional Wage & Salary Earners - Electronic Publication	5673.0.55.001	Annual
Superannuation: Coverage & Financial Characteristics	6360.0	Irregular
Voluntary Work	4441.0	Irregular

(a) Latest data available via the ABS web site, and on request, for June 2003.

(b) Latest data available on request for July 2001.

Feature Articles (Appendix)

Feature Articles

October 2003

Labour market transitions of teenagers

Technical report: New Labour Force Survey sample selections: analysis of the effect on estimates

July 2003

Experimental volume measures of labour underutilisation

Unemployment and participation rates in Australia: a cohort analysis

Technical report: Measures of weekly hours worked

April 2003

Do job vacancies provide a leading indicator of employment growth?

Characteristics of underemployed workers

Technical report: Labour Force Survey sample redesign

Note: the following articles appeared in **Labour Force, Australia** (cat. no. 6203.0).

February 2003

Seasonal reanalysis of monthly labour force estimates

December 2002

Volatility of labour force estimates

October 2002

Measures of labour underutilisation

February 2002

Seasonal reanalysis of monthly labour force estimates

October 2001

Full-time and part-time employment

August 2001

Experimental estimates: labour force characteristics of Indigenous Australians

June 2001

Duration of unemployment: recent definitional changes

February 2001

Unemployment and supplementary measures of underutilised labour

Seasonal reanalysis of monthly labour force estimates

May 2000

Status in employment data changes: correction

April 2000

Using the unemployment rate series to illustrate the seasonal adjustment process

February 2000

Seasonal reanalysis of monthly labour force estimates

December 1999

Why are there differences between two seasonally adjusted measures of Australian total employment?

November 1999

Industry, occupation and status in employment data

Labour force status and other characteristics of families

October 1999

Labour force projections: 1999-2016

July 1999

Casual employment

April 1999

Introduction of updated standard error estimates

February 1999

Revisions to monthly labour force estimates

January 1999

Concordance between the first and second editions of the **Australian Standard Classification of Occupations (ASCO)** - revised

Related publications (Appendix)

Related publications

To find the latest release, click on the associated link below.

Title	cat. no.	Frequency
Information papers and other reference material		
ABS Labour Market Statistics	6106.0.55.001	Irregular
Australian System of National Accounts: Concepts, Sources & Methods	5216.0	Irregular
Changes to Labour Force Survey Products	6297.0	Irregular
Forthcoming Changes to Labour Force Statistics	6292.0	Irregular
Implementing the Redesignated Labour Force Survey Questionnaire	6295.0	Irregular
Labour Force Survey Sample Design	6269.0	Irregular
Labour Force Survey Standard Errors	6298.0	Irregular
Labour Statistics: Concepts, Sources & Methods	6102.0	Irregular
Questionnaires Used in the Labour Force Survey	6232.0	Irregular
Wage Cost Index	6346.0	Irregular
Labour force supplementary surveys		
Career Experience	6254.0	Irregular
Child Care	4402.0	Irregular
Education & Work	6227.0	Annual
Employee Earnings, Benefits & Trade Union Membership	6310.0	Annual
Forms of Employment	6359.0	Irregular
Job Search Experience	6222.0	Annual
Labour Force Experience	6206.0	Biennial
Labour Force Status & Other Characteristics of Families(a)	6224.0	Discontinued
Labour Force Status & Other Characteristics of Migrants	6250.0	Irregular
Labour Mobility	6209.0	Biennial
Locations of Work	6275.0	Irregular
Multiple Jobholding(b)	6216.0	Discontinued
Persons Not in the Labour Force	6220.0	Annual
Retirement & Retirement Intentions	6238.0	Irregular
Retrenchment & Redundancy	6266.0	Irregular
Underemployed Workers	6265.0	Annual
Work-Related Injuries	6324.0	Irregular
Working Arrangements	6342.0	Irregular
Sub-annual labour surveys		
Average Weekly Earnings	6302.0	Quarterly
Industrial Disputes	6321.0	Monthly
Job Vacancies	6354.0	Quarterly
Labour Force	6202.0	Monthly
Wage & Salary Earners, Public Sector	6248.0	Quarterly
Wage Cost Index	6345.0	Quarterly
Other labour surveys		
Employee Earnings & Hours	6306.0	Biennial
Employer Training Expenditure & Practices	6362.0	Irregular
Labour Costs	6348.0	Irregular
Other publications		
Australian Economic Indicators	1350.0	Monthly
Australian National Accounts: National Income, Expenditure & Product	5206.0	Quarterly
Australian Social Trends	4102.0	Annual
Australian System of National Accounts	5204.0	Annual
Australians' Employment & Unemployment Patterns: First Results	6289.0	Irregular
Business Indicators	5676.0	Quarterly
Census of Population & Housing: Selected Education & Labour Force Statistics	2017.0	Irregular
Education & Training Indicators	4230.0	Irregular
Employment Arrangements & Superannuation	6361.0	Irregular
General Social Survey	4159.0	Irregular
Government Benefits, Taxes & Household Income	6537.0	Irregular
Household Income & Income Distribution	6523.0	Irregular
Measuring Australia's Progress	1370.0	Irregular
Regional Wage & Salary Earners - Electronic Publication	5673.0.55.001	Annual
Superannuation: Coverage & Financial Characteristics	6360.0	Irregular
Voluntary Work	4441.0	Irregular

(a) Latest data available via the ABS web site, and on request, for June 2003.

(b) Latest data available on request for July 2001.

How to find data sources (Appendix)

How to find data sources

To find a publication on the ABS web site, go to [Publications]. Search for the first two digits of the catalogue number under the subject listing, e.g. to find the publication **Labour Force, Australia** (cat. no. 6202.0), look under '62. Labour force'. Catalogue numbers are listed under the relevant subject listing.

Similarly, to find a spreadsheet, go to [Time Series Spreadsheets], and to find a data cube, go to [Data Cubes]. Individual numbered

spreadsheets and data cubes are listed under the catalogue number. Monthly, quarterly and annual products are listed separately.

No.	Table description	Data source	Notes
1.1	Trend	Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0) 6202.0.55.001 spreadsheet table 1	
1.2	Age by marital status	6291.0.55.001 spreadsheet table 1	
1.3	States and territories	Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0) 6291.0.55.001 spreadsheet table 2	Excludes Capital city/balance of state
1.4	Educational attendance	6291.0.55.001 spreadsheet table 3	More detailed Age
1.5	Country of birth	6291.0.55.001 data cube LM4	Includes Sex, State, Less detailed Country of birth
		6291.0.55.001 data cube LM5	Includes Sex, Age, State, Less detailed Country of birth
		6291.0.55.001 data cube LM6	Includes Sex, State
		6291.0.55.001 data cube LM7	Includes Sex, State, Less detailed Country of birth
	Year of arrival	6291.0.55.001 data cube LM4	Includes Sex, State, Less detailed Country of birth
		6291.0.55.001 data cube LM7	Includes Sex, State, Less detailed Country of birth
1.6	Relationship in household	6291.0.55.001 data cube FM1 6291.0.55.001 data cube FM2 6291.0.55.001 data cube FM3 6291.0.55.001 data cube FM4	Includes State Includes Age Includes Hours worked Unemployed persons only, Includes Duration of unemployment
1.7	Families	ABS data available on request, Labour Force.	
1.8	International comparisons	International Labour Organisation http://www.ilo.org , Year Book of Labour Statistics 1998, 2000, 2001 and 2002 International Labour Organisation http://www.ilo.org , Key Indicators of the Labour Market 2001-02	
2.1	Industry: trend	6291.0.55.001 spreadsheet table 4	Includes Employed full-time, Employed part-time
2.2	Industry: divisions and subdivisions	6291.0.55.001 spreadsheet table 6 6291.0.55.001 data cube E03 6291.0.55.001 data cube E05 6291.0.55.001 data cube E06	Includes Sex, State, Hours worked, Less detailed Industry Includes Sex, Age, Status in employment, Hours worked Includes Sex, State, Status in employment, Hours worked, More detailed Industry
2.3	Occupation	6291.0.55.001 spreadsheet table 7 6291.0.55.001 spreadsheet table 12 6291.0.55.001 data cube E07 6291.0.55.001 data cube E08	Less detailed Occupation Includes Hours worked, Less detailed Occupation Includes Age, Hours worked, Status in employment Includes State, Status in employment, More detailed Occupation
2.4	Industry and Occupation by full-time part-time status	6291.0.55.001 data cube E09	Includes State, Hours worked
2.5	Industry by status in employment	6291.0.55.001 data cube E04 6291.0.55.001 data cube E05 6291.0.55.001 data cube E06 6291.0.55.001 data cube E04 6291.0.55.001 data cube E07 6291.0.55.001 data cube E08	Includes Sex, State, Excludes Industry Includes Sex, Age, More detailed Industry Includes Sex, State, More detailed Industry Includes Sex, State, Excludes Occupation Includes Sex, Age, More detailed Occupation Includes Sex, State, More detailed Occupation
	Occupation by status in employment		
	Hours worked in all jobs by status in employment	6291.0.55.001 spreadsheet table 8 6291.0.55.001 spreadsheet table 13 6291.0.55.001 data cube E04 6291.0.55.001 data cube E05 6291.0.55.001 data cube E06 6291.0.55.001 data cube E07 6291.0.55.001 data cube E08	Excludes Hours worked, Includes Sex, Employed full-time, Employed part-time Includes Sex Includes Sex, State Includes Sex, Age, Industry Includes Sex, State, Industry Includes Sex, Age, Occupation Includes Sex, State, Occupation
2.6	Average hours worked in all jobs by Industry	6291.0.55.001 spreadsheet table 11 6291.0.55.001 data cube E03 6291.0.55.001 data cube E05 6291.0.55.001 data cube E06 6291.0.55.001 data cube E09	Includes State Includes Age, Status in employment, More detailed Industry Includes State, Status in employment, More detailed Industry Includes State, Occupation
	Average hours worked in all jobs by Occupation	6291.0.55.001 spreadsheet table 12 6291.0.55.001 data cube E07 6291.0.55.001 data cube E08 6291.0.55.001 data cube E09	Includes Age, Status in employment, More detailed Occupation Includes State, Status in employment, More detailed Occupation Includes State, Industry
2.7	Actual hours worked in all jobs	6291.0.55.001 spreadsheet table 9	

	6291.0.55.001 spreadsheet table 11	Includes Industry
	6291.0.55.001 spreadsheet table 12	Includes Occupation
	6291.0.55.001 spreadsheet table 13	Includes Status in employment
	6291.0.55.001 data cube EM1	Includes Age, State
	6291.0.55.001 data cube E03	Includes State, Industry
	6291.0.55.001 data cube E04	Includes State, Status in employment
2.8 Actual hours worked in all jobs	6291.0.55.001 spreadsheet table 9	
	6291.0.55.001 spreadsheet table 11	Includes Industry
	6291.0.55.001 spreadsheet table 12	Includes Occupation
	6291.0.55.001 spreadsheet table 13	Includes Status in employment
	6291.0.55.001 data cube EM1	Includes Age, State
	6291.0.55.001 data cube E03	Includes State, Industry
	6291.0.55.001 data cube E04	Includes State, Status in employment
Usual hours worked in all jobs	6291.0.55.001 spreadsheet table 10	
	6291.0.55.001 data cube EM3	Includes Age, State
	6291.0.55.001 data cube E10	Includes State, Industry
2.9 Full-time workers who worked less than 35 hours in all jobs	6291.0.55.001 data cube EM2	Includes Age, State, Hours worked
2.10 Future employment expectations by job tenure	6291.0.55.001 data cube E02	Excludes Future employment expectations, Includes State, Age
2.11 Public sector employees	Wage and Salary Earners, Public Sector, Australia (cat. no. 6248.0)	
Public sector employees: Australia Totals	6248.0 spreadsheet table 1	Includes State
Public sector employees by Level of government: Trend	6248.0 spreadsheet table 2	Includes Commonwealth government, State, Seasonally adjusted and Original data
	6248.0 spreadsheet table 3	Includes State government, State, Seasonally adjusted and Original data
	6248.0 spreadsheet table 4	Includes Local government, State, Seasonally adjusted and Original data
Public sector employees by State: Trend	6248.0 spreadsheet table 1	Includes Seasonally adjusted and Original data
	6248.0 spreadsheet table 2	Includes Commonwealth government, Seasonally adjusted and Original data
	6248.0 spreadsheet table 3	Includes State government, Seasonally adjusted and Original data
	6248.0 spreadsheet table 4	Includes Local government, Seasonally adjusted and Original data
	6248.0 spreadsheet table 7a	Includes Industry
Public sector employees by Industry: Original	6248.0 spreadsheet table 7a	Includes State
3.1 Unemployed persons: Duration of unemployment by Age	6291.0.55.001 data cube UM2	Excludes Age, Median Duration of unemployment
	6291.0.55.001 data cube UM3	Excludes Median Duration of unemployment
3.2 Long-term unemployed	6291.0.55.001 spreadsheet table 15b	
	6291.0.55.001 data cube UM2	Excludes Trend data, Includes State, More detailed Duration of unemployment
	6291.0.55.001 data cube UM3	Excludes Trend data, Includes State, Age
3.3 Unemployed persons: Reason for unemployment by Industry of last job	6291.0.55.001 data cube UQ1	Excludes Industry of last job
	6291.0.55.001 data cube UQ2	Excludes Reason for unemployment
Unemployed persons: Reason for unemployment by Occupation of last job	6291.0.55.001 data cube UQ1	Excludes Occupation of last job
	6291.0.55.001 data cube UQ3	Excludes Reason for unemployment
4.1 Underutilised labour	Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6203.0), October 2002	Article in publication
4.2 Underutilised labour - states	Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6203.0), October 2002	Article in publication
4.3 Part-time workers	6291.0.55.001 data cube E01	Less detailed Hours worked
4.4 Persons not in the labour force	6291.0.55.001 data cube NM1	
5.1 Wage cost index	Wage Cost Index, Australia (cat. no. 6345.0)	
Wage cost index: Trend data	6345.0 spreadsheet table 1B	
Wage cost index: Australia, States and territories	6345.0 spreadsheet table 2B	
Wage cost index: Private sector	6345.0 spreadsheet table 3B	Includes States and territories
Wage cost index: Public sector	6345.0 spreadsheet table 4B	Includes States and territories
Wage cost index: Industry	6345.0 spreadsheet table 5B	Includes Sector
Wage cost index: Occupation	6345.0 spreadsheet table 7B	Includes Sector
5.2 Average weekly earnings	Average Weekly Earnings, Australia (cat. no. 6302.0)	
Average weekly earnings by Sex	6302.0 spreadsheet table 1	Includes Full-time adult total earnings
Average weekly earnings: Private sector	6302.0 spreadsheet table 4	Includes Full-time adult total earnings
Average weekly earnings: Public sector	6302.0 spreadsheet table 7	Includes Full-time adult total earnings
5.3 Compensation of employees	Australian National Accounts: National Income, Expenditure and Product (cat. no. 5206.0)	
6.1 Industrial disputes: Working days lost	Industrial Disputes, Australia (cat. no. 6321.0)	
Industrial disputes: Working days lost by State	6321.0 spreadsheet table 3	
Industrial disputes: Working days lost by Industry	6321.0 spreadsheet table 2	
6.2 Industrial disputes: Working days lost per 1,000 employees	ABS data available on request, Industrial Disputes	
7.1 Job vacancies	Job Vacancies, Australia (cat. no. 6354.0)	

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